



# Homework Policy

## **Context.**

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education, enabling parents to monitor the progress of their child. The Irish Constitution recognises parents as the primary and natural educator of their child.

## **Why give homework?**

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and a positive attitude towards life-long learning, an understanding that learning is not only contained within the school years. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. Homework provides children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practicing the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. It helps to develop a child's concentration, organisational skills, time management skills and to develop a good work ethic. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed.

## **How often is homework given?**

As a general rule, every child from Junior Infants to Sixth Class inclusive is given homework each day from Monday to Thursday. Children in the older classes may be assigned project work from time to time and pupils may choose to work on this over the weekend but this is not a requirement. Parents are asked to ensure that their children complete their homework. In the event of the homework not being attempted or not completed satisfactorily, teachers may insist that the homework is completed by the child during break time or at the weekend. Homework must be done unless there is satisfactory explanation, either written or oral, from a parent or guardian.

The recommended average time for homework ranges from ten minutes in Junior Infants to one hour in more senior classes. If the child is regularly struggling with completing homework, or regularly exceeding guideline times and this is not due to poor work habits, parents are advised to contact the class teacher to discuss the matter.

At the start of the school year it takes the teacher time to adjust the amount of homework given to the standard of the class. Parents are asked to have patience over this "settling in" period.

## **What is the content of homework?**

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and may vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that ***homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.*** Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring that this work is done well.

Sometimes with more senior classes, some homework may be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity and/or problem-solving. This is beneficial in guiding the child towards more self-directed learning.

## **Role and Responsibilities of Teachers.**

Teachers (class teachers and/or resource teachers in consultation with class teacher) will decide the content and extent of homework. For clarity, this will be written up daily on a Homework board for children to take down into their Homework Journal. Teachers will take account of the specific circumstances of individual children when assigning homework. Ideally, teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day. Homework will be corrected by the teacher, either in written form or by verbal feedback. Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children. Teachers may contact parents if there is an on-going issue with homework not being completed, or not completed satisfactorily.

## **Role and Responsibilities of Pupils.**

Pupils are responsible for writing their homework daily into their Homework Journal (from First Class) and for taking the required books and copies home. Pupils should complete all aspects of the assigned homework to the best of their ability and in a timely manner.

## **Role and Responsibilities of Parents.**

We strongly encourage parents to be involved in supporting their child's homework activities. In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on his/her own ***to the best of his/her ability.*** However, there are also times when homework may require the support of a parent to complete. Please do not complete the child's homework for him/her. Work set will generally have been prepared in class by the class teacher and based on the child's ability level. Please check your child's homework for neatness and point out mistakes. ***Oral work is as important as written work. Please listen to your child read, and examine spellings and tables.***

Parents should sign their child's Homework Journal (Homework Sheet for Infants) each evening when homework has been completed to a satisfactory standard. The pupil's Homework Journal is a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.

**Remember. If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the entire purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher to discuss the matter.**

## Leisure Time Reading

Current research highlights the importance of cultivating the habit of independent reading for pleasure and as a lifelong skill. It is strongly promoted by the DES. Leisure time reading is essentially an out of school activity and outside the scope possible of daily homework yet its impacts on learning are great. ***Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or family income.***

How can this habit of independent reading be fostered and developed by parents?

- Encourage children to choose books independently.
- Talk to children about their choice of books and what they are reading in their spare time.
- Encourage children to spend time reading on a regular basis. This should include weekends and holidays.
- Continue reading aloud with your child as long as he/she considers it an enjoyable activity.
- Let your children see you reading.
- Read the book of a film. Read the book version of a movie then enjoy watching the film and comparing the two and discussing the differences. The BFG, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda, Fantastic Mr Fox, Harry Potter, Stuart Little, Charlotte's Web, Mary Poppins, The Famous Five, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Holes, Goodnight Mister Tom, The Princess Diaries, The Chronicles of Narnia, are just a few suggested films that are based on books.
- Join a public library and visit regularly.

Reading introduces us to diverse worlds and thoughts and gives children the opportunity to confront powerful emotional experiences in a safe environment. Reading allows us to share in the experiences of others and to learn from them. The cultivation of a regular reading habit privileges a child with a life enriching habit that will prove both pleasurable and valuable. The promotion of reading for pleasure may be one of the most important gifts that a parent can pass on to their child.

## Ratification of Homework Policy

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 21/11/2022.

Signed: Paul Carroll Lorraine Mahon

Chairperson B.O.M.

Principal

Date: 21/11/2022 21/11/2022

Date of next review: Sept 2024