

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility for life long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education. In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Aims of homework:

- To benefit pupil learning.
- To reinforce work done in class.
- To develop simple study skills that will make the transition from primary to secondary school easier.
- To strengthen links between home and school (Homework diary with parent / teacher comments).

General Homework Information

- All classes will get homework on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and only on Friday for the following reasons:
 - a) If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - b) If the teacher deems it appropriate to assign extra homework as a result of inappropriate behaviour.
 - c) If the teacher feels that the child would benefit from an extra day's homework.
- Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat, reward, or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Guideline target times for homework are as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| a) 2 nd , 3 rd and 4 th classes | 30 – 45 minutes |
| b) 5 th and 6 th classes | 45 – 60 minutes |

Homework content

- Homework will usually contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks, and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', collecting information / items and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and 'learning by heart' is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring that work is done well. **Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.**
- Gaeilge homework given will be a recap of what the children did during the day and each child should be able to complete it **without** the help of an adult.

Pupils should:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary.
- Ensure that they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

Parents/Guardians should:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organize themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupils should have the homework journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.

- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and television.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Inform the class teacher if their child is spending much longer than the guideline times above to complete their homework.
- Sign the homework diary, checking that all homework is complete.
- Write how long the homework took their child in the homework journal
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, copies, pencils, math's equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework diary.
- Inform the teacher on the rare occasions that homework has not been completed and the reason why.

Teachers should:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- Notify parents/guardians if homework is regularly incomplete.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

What happens when homework is not done?

When homework is not done, the teacher will stamp an "incomplete homework" into the child's journal. The homework will have to be made up during break time and if necessary the child may be kept back after school. The parents will be notified if a child is to be kept back. The teacher may also contact the parents / guardians with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents / guardians and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved. If a student has incomplete homework, they will be required to do this homework at lunch time. When they have finished it they will be allowed to play. However, if a student has more than one incomplete homework for the week, they will be required to do their homework at the wall and **stay** at the wall when they have finished their homework. They may also be given homework on Friday if they do not have fully complete homework for the week. If they do not do Friday's homework, they will be given detention the following week where they will complete it. Each month, the number of days a child has incomplete homework will be noted clearly in the monthly report.

Please sign the section relating to the Homework Policy on the pupil information form stating that you have read this policy