

Homework

Policy

Ratified by the BOM on 24th June 2020.

Signed: Denis Smith, Chairperson

Drawn up in 2010. Reviewed and amended in 2014, 2018 and April 2020. Sanctioned by the board in June , 2020

Homework Policy

Rationale:

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between the school and the home. It allows parents to be part of their child's learning and to monitor the progress of their children while ensuring that the learning process, begun in the classroom is reinforced. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning and self-discipline is promoted. It allows children to practice skills learned and to use research based on their school work to further increase their knowledge and awareness of a particular subject. This policy, originally drawn up in 2010 attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved.

Parents, pupils, staff and members of the Board of Management were all involved in the review.

Aims and Objectives:

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work.
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
- To enhance self- esteem through the provision of a menu of work that is do-able.
- To provide clarity to all as to the recommended time to be spent on and content of homework.
- To further develop links between home and school.
- To support the assessment process of a pupil's work.

Role of the School:

In September of each year, all parents will be emailed a copy of the Homework Policy along with a Homework Information sheet which will describe the following-

The type of homework which will be given, the length of time it should generally take, consequences for non-completion and advice on how homework should be approached.

Homework on a daily basis:

- Class-related homework will be assigned from Mondays to Thursday based on the work covered in class during those days.
- Staff will ensure that home-work is relevant and contains a balance between reading, written work and learning.
- It will be explained to children in advance.
- Core subject homework assigned will be corrected daily and used for error analysis in assessing a child's grasp of new material and their progress.
- Homework is differentiated so as to take account of differing levels of ability within a classroom. Class teachers and members of the Special Needs Team, having discussed the needs of a child will decide on the amount of homework and who will have responsibility for that assignment and its correction.

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As part of Literacy Power Hour pupils in senior infants and first class have an assigned book to read over the weekend.

In classes from second to sixth pupils will be expected to read their AR books over the weekends. Project work may be also assigned to pupils in fourth to sixth over the weekend.

- Active homework will form part of the homework at least once a fortnight. This will be monitored.

Positive Approaches:

Staff may use the following to encourage the completion of homework – praise and acknowledgement, stickers, small prizes, dojo points, child is nominated for an Assembly Award, Homework Passes.

Non-completion of homework by a child -Sanctions

Junior school (Junior Infants to Second Class):

Generally in the junior classes non-completion of homework is not an issue.

In the case where a child has a genuine reason for not completing homework, (eg a child is sick) the child is not expected to do the homework that night. The parent must provide a note explaining the reason why the work was not done (If a parent wants the child to complete it that will be at the discretion of the parent.)

If there is a pattern of non- completion however, the parents will be informed via email and asked to follow up .

If support is required, this will be provided by the class teacher and the Home School teacher.

Face to face meetings may take place between the class teacher and the parent.

From term three in first class if a child does not complete homework the child will be expected to fill in the **Homework Log**, note what they have not done, and the reason why. The child has to complete the homework that night in addition to the homework assigned for the day. The parent is informed by email. The same approach will be employed in second class throughout the whole year

Senior School (Third to Sixth Classes):

In the case where a child has a genuine reason for not completing homework (eg, a child is sick) the child is not expected to do the homework that night. (If a parent wants the child to complete it that will be at the discretion of the parent.) A note must be provided by the parent in the homework journal.

If the reason is not acceptable the child explains why the homework has not been completed and notes it in the **Homework Log**. The child is expected to complete it that night in addition to the homework for the day.

If a persistent pattern of non-completion develops, parents will be informed by email and asked to sign off on the child's homework nightly.

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If there is no improvement after this approach, a face to face meeting will take place between the class teacher and the parents. Pupils in fifth and sixth class will attend these meetings. Advice and support will be provided and the situation will be monitored on an on-going basis

An approach will be agreed upon which might involve the following -

Parents check the child's homework every night and sign off on each piece.

Weekly feedback on completion rates and quality of the homework is given by the teacher via email.

Persistent non- completion of homework will result in detention being given which will be completed in the office during lunch time. Parents will be informed that the sanction is being applied.

Where a family needs a more wrap around support, the child may be placed in the Homework Club with the parent's agreement.

Role of Parents:

Parents are requested to support and oversee their child's homework on a daily basis.

Parents in first and second must sign off their child's homework nightly in the homework journal.

Parents of third and fourth class pupils must sign off on the homework at least once a week.

Fifth and sixth class pupils are expected to take full responsibility for their homework in preparation for secondary school. However if there are issues around non-completion the parent may be asked to sign off on the homework each night.

In general, all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning by heart, research for project work or finishing class work.

The following is a sample of the allocation for the various class levels –

Junior Infants: 10 minutes

No homework is given for the first six to eight weeks. After Halloween sight vocabulary and handwriting exercises will be given. In terms two and three the child may have sight words, some simple maths work and reading of class reader.

Senior Infants: 15 -20 minutes

Sight vocabulary- Dolch List, reading, maths, worksheets from The Stay Safe Programme

First Class: 20 - 25 minutes

Reading, spelling (2-3 words) maths, tables.

Second Class: 20 – 30 minutes

Reading, spelling (4) words, maths work, tables and one other subject.

Third Class: 30 – 45 minutes

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Gaeilge, reading, spelling, maths, tables, written work based on work of the day from these subjects and one other.

Fourth Class: 40-50 minutes

As for third.

Fifth Class: 45– 60 minutes

English, Gaeilge, Maths and others

Sixth Class: 45 -60 minutes

As for fifth

Success Criteria:

Feedback from parents and staff

Corrected Homework.

Teacher Observation

Pupil Satisfaction

Roles and Responsibilities:

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy.

Ratification/ Communication

This amended policy was ratified by the Board of Management on June 24th, 2020.

It is posted on the school website and a copy will be emailed to all parents at the start of each year.

Review: It will be reviewed by all concerned in **2024**.

Based on: The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary School B. Gilsenan

Your Child in the Primary School - I.N.T.O.

Your Child's Learning D.E.S. Primary School Curriculum