



Homework Policy

Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills, study skills and a work ethic.
- To provide feedback to the teacher.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice

work already covered in class. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability - no more, no less.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but not on Friday. There are two exceptions:
 1. If homework has been neglected during the week.
 2. In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- If your child is receiving support from a Special Education Teacher, the support teacher may assign some work or activities. The class teacher and the support teacher liaise frequently so that the child does not have an excessive amount of work to complete.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.
- Homework activities may be assigned on a Monday which are to be completed by the Friday of that same week.

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. It should be noted that homework time devoted to **reading and learning** is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, 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 this work is done well.
- Scoil Mhuire is an Active School and to reflect this, children may be given an Activity or Skill to practice at home particularly on their PE day / days.

How and where is homework recorded?

- Pupils in Junior and Senior infants have a homework folder.

- All pupils in First to Sixth Class will record their homework in their Homework Diary.

How much (time) homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 1 hour
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour and 15 minutes
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour and 30 minutes
Special Class for children on the autistic spectrum	At the discretion of the class teacher to suit the ability and needs of each individual child.



Providing the environment is free from distraction.

Pupils should:

- Enter homework accurately in the homework diary which is used by all pupils in First Class to Sixth Class.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability
- Present written work neatly.

Parents/Guardians should:

- Check that written work is completed neatly and correctly.
- Examine tables and spellings nightly.
- 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 organise themselves for homework. The Homework Diary should be open and the **parent** should 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.
- Providing a quiet place, free from distraction, such as social media, TV etc..
- Encourage good presentation and neatness.
- Sign the homework diary (1st - 6th Classes) checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, gum shields, for the next day.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework diary for older pupils and in the homework folder for the pupils in the infant classes. Please check for such notes daily.

Teachers should:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties and differentiate work as required.

How often do teachers monitor 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 diary every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often.
- 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.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still able to concentrate, however, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Failure to hand in homework:

We expect completed homework to be given in neat and tidy and on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not handed in it will be noted in the homework journal and appropriate action is taken:

- The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in work.
- Pupils may be told to stay in at lunchtime to complete the work.
- The class teacher may contact the parents.

Communication of this Policy:

This policy will be included in the annual information book which is provided to the parents / guardians of all children on enrolment.

A copy of this policy will be inserted into the homework diary of all pupils in First Class to Sixth Class.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Ratified by Board of Management on 16th November 2017