



Homework Policy

Rationale:

The purpose of Homework is to:

- Provide an important link between home and school.
 - Encourage and develop the habit of independent study, responsibility and self reliance.
 - Consolidate, revisit and revise daily schoolwork.
- To lay the foundation for a process of lifelong learning
- Encourage daily reading practice

How often is homework given?

Pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Children with Special Education Needs and /or a Specific Learning Difficulty may be provided with differentiated homework if appropriate.

Homework is usually assigned daily from Monday to Thursday, leaving the weekend free for family activities. Pupils may be asked to complete homework at weekends if it has been neglected during the week.

At Junior and Senior Infants level, homework is assigned on Monday for the week, and is returned on Friday.

In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends and the return of some homework may be over a period of days.

Sometimes children are given "Homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion, with the approval of the principal.

Where a child is absent for an extended period, homework can be provided as usual.

How Is homework communicated?

Junior infants to 1st class homework is communicated to parents/guardians on Monday, via Seesaw.

Homework from 2nd-6th class is communicated daily via the **homework journal**. Children recording their homework in their own journal is an important life skill. The teacher may choose to list the homework on Seesaw/Google Classroom also, as a helpful reference point for parents/guardians in the event of errors/omissions in the child's journal.

Duration of homework:

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. The times below refer to how long the children should spend working consistently and does not include breaks or interruptions. 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.

Sample time guidelines for homework:

Class	Recommended times
Junior Infants	No homework until after mid-term break in first term Home Activities (10-20 minutes)
Senior Infants	Home Activities (10-20 minutes)
First / Second Class	15– 30 minutes
Third/Fourth Class	30 – 45 minutes
Fifth/Sixth Class	45 – 60 minutes

****Please note-** Due to the dynamic nature of school life, there may be occasions when more or less homework needs to be assigned. This may be because the children are preparing for a big event or undertaking a project with a definitive deadline.

Content:

Usually, homework consists of a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. Some of these tasks may be in digital format such as Reading Eggs, Google Classroom ,Seesaw activities. Homework is never an introduction to unfamiliar material.

Online learning activity in a subject area, using Seesaw or Google Classroom, will form part of Monday night's homework.

Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are asked to read often to younger children. Please see the appendix for sample items of homework.

Parents are asked to:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework from an early age.
- Encourage your child/ children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Establish a set routine and time for homework. A quiet place, free of distractions is preferable. minimise interruptions or distractions, like T.V., mobile phones etc. or other children.
- Regularly check memory work (tables and spellings).
- Encourage good presentation of written homework.
- Check your child's homework each night and sign it when you are satisfied that the work is completed to the best of his ability.
- Inform teachers of problems when they arise.
- If homework is incomplete, if time has been exceeded and the child worked consistently and to the best of their ability for the duration, the journal can be signed, with an explanation note. When this happens regularly, it informs the teacher that the quantity of homework being assigned may be excessive and/or the content may be too challenging. This permits the teacher to differentiate the homework as appropriate.
- Communicate through Seesaw/ Google, rather than the journal.
- General queries relating to homework should be communicated through Seesaw/ Google Classroom. Other communication, or communication of a more sensitive nature relating to homework or otherwise, should be emailed to the class teacher to avoid being made visible to your child.
- Check that your child has the necessary books, copies and other items for the next school day.

Pupils are asked to:

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

Teachers are asked to

- Assign homework appropriate to age level, and based on school work taught.
- Set various kinds of homework, review assignments and provide feedback to pupils.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with particular difficulties in curricular areas.

Homework during Covid 19 pandemic

- Homework journal is not in use.
- Daily homework is posted by the class teacher to the Seesaw app or on Google Classroom instead (2nd-6th class). It is posted weekly for Infants- 1st class, set on Mondays)
- Online learning activities using Seesaw or Google Classroom will form part of Monday night's homework.
- Certain books will remain at home as "homework" books, and the work can be photographed and returned through Seesaw or Google Classroom.
- Worksheets can be sent home as in previous years but should not be returned to school. Teachers may request completed worksheets to be photographed and posted to Seesaw/Google Classroom if requested.
- Readers will be sent to and from school. These can be sanitised and will be quarantined in school before another child takes home.

Appendix:

The following is recommended for each level.

Junior and Senior Infants:

In **Junior Infants**, the emphasis is on developing sight vocabulary and on early reading skills. Handwriting and Maths exercises might also be given. On occasion it could include SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education), SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education), Arts (Music, Art, Drama), PE (Physical Education) or Religion.

Senior Infants' work will include writing, handwriting or Maths assignments, reading work and phonics work. On occasion it could include SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education), SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education), Arts (Music, Art, Drama), PE (Physical Education) or Religion.

1st and 2nd Class:

Homework at this level will include some of the following-

Reading

Spellings (in English and sometimes Irish)

Maths questions/problems regularly.

Learning of number facts and tables.

Simple research for projects may be given.

On occasion it may also include SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education), SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education), Arts (Music, Art, Drama), PE (Physical Education) or Religion.

3rd and 4th class:

Daily English reading and regular Irish reading.

Daily Spellings in English and Irish

Daily Learning of number facts and tables.

Maths homework related to class work, regularly.. Written work in English and/or other subjects will also be given during the week.

As well as routine homework, it may be varied to include project work and creative and/or 'active learning' type tasks related to topics being covered in class.

On occasion it may also include SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education), SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education), Arts (Music, Art, Drama), PE (Physical Education) or Religion.

5th and 6th class:

Daily English reading and regular Irish reading.

Daily Spellings in English and Irish.

Revision of number facts and tables should be given where necessary. Maths homework related to class work will be given, regularly.

Written work in English and/or other subjects will also be given during the week.

On occasion it may also include SESE (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education), SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education), Arts (Music, Art, Drama), PE (Physical Education) or Religion.

As well as routine homework, it may be varied to include project work and creative and/or 'active learning' type tasks related to topics being covered in class. At this level, some homework tasks may be set on a daily basis and other tasks may be set over a week. This will help in easing transition to second level.

Ratified by the Board of Management, September 2021.

Signed:



Anne Looney (Chairperson)



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Natasha Bassett
(Principal)

