



# Homework Policy

## **Introduction:**

The Staff of Scoil Naisiunta na mBuachaillí looks upon homework as an intrinsic part of the Primary School learning process.

## **Rationale:**

To review and extend the existing guidelines including in the School Code of Behaviour.

## **Aims:**

- To provide a link between home and school and enable parents to become actively involved in the child's formal education.
- To re-enforce the work already done in school.
- To encourage pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.
- To develop a child's concentration and work ethic.
- To give children an opportunity to practice and improve reading and writing skills and to memorise certain areas taught in school e.g. tables, spellings, poetry etc.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability, no more no less.

## **Time spent on Homework:**

It is difficult to specify how long children at various levels should spend on homework, as the time spent depends on:

- The age of the pupil.
- The child's ability to listen in class and learn.
- The child's level of concentration.
- The suitability or otherwise of the learning environment, distractions, interruptions, etc.
- The time of the evening when homework is undertaken.

However, the following times may be used as a guide by parents: Parents should contact the class teacher if homework is taking longer than outlined below.

Second Class	½ hour – 40 mins approx
Third class:	40mins to 1 hour approx
Fourth	1 hour approx
Fifth	1 hour 10mins approx
Sixth class:	1 to 1 ½ hours approx.

Homework is given Monday to Thursday. Sometimes at the discretion of the teacher, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion.

Ideally homework will consist of a balance between oral, reading and written work. This balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Homework will sometimes involve information gathering/project work.

### **How much help should parents give?**

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
  1. Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
  2. To prevent interruptions or distractions, like TV or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanations 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.
- Shared reading is not homework, in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it’s not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

### **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents are required to check and sign a child’s homework journal every evening.
- The pupil’s journal is an important record of the child’s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child’s teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal).
- Please check that your child records their homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. **Please check your child’s journal for such notes on a regular basis.**

### **How often should teacher 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 journal everyday.
- 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.

**When should parents communicate with teachers about homework?**

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he cannot understand some aspect.
- If homework is taking longer than the time outlined above.

**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 fresh.
- However, some children need a break before starting homework.

**Ratification and Communication:**

This Homework Policy has been ratified by the BOM at a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed:**

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Chairperson BoM