

St. Eoghan's P.S. Moneyneena



Homework Policy

Reviewed October
2015

Definition:

‘Homework’ refers to any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers.

The Purpose of Homework

- To develop an effective partnership between the school and parents/carers in pursuing the aims of the school. **(Research has shown parents welcome homework as a way of keeping in touch with their children and helping them in their learning and understanding.)**
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy and Numeracy.
- To exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home.
- To extend school learning.
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study on their own, and preparing them for the requirements of secondary school.

General Points:

- Homework will be given Monday to Friday from Year 1 to Year 7.
- The teacher does not always have time to mark homework personally on a daily basis, but at some during the week it will be scrutinized, dated and assessed.
- From Year 4 – Year 7, homework can be marked in a group basis also.
- There are no hard and fast rules about the nature of homework. It can vary to foster the initiative of the child or group, developing learning skills, or just simply consolidate practice and reinforcement. It can be an opportunity to foster aesthetic skills such as appreciation of beauty (art work) enjoyment of leisure pursuits (practising a skill learnt in P.E.) listening to music, telling or relating stories, talking or listening to siblings or parents about a topic being taught at school.
- Homework can also be used as an opportunity to stimulate curiosity, interest and imagination e.g. why are all post vans red?
- It can also be used as an open approach to problem solving e.g. Is it easier to pack circular objects or square ones? Why – How did you find out – What about packets that are triangular in shape?
- Homework can also be group or whole class work.
- Reading need not always be the homework task in Year 1 – Year 3. We would ask parents to be assured that the reading skills are taught even though a reading book is not always given home.
- Attention will be paid to a child's ability when homework is being set. Children with Special Educational Needs will benefit from differentiated tasks separate from other children but as much in common with other children as possible.

Advice For Parents:

- We would invite as much help from parents as possible in helping their children in their approach to homework, but remember we are trying to achieve independent learning strategies for each child.
- If homework is done for the pupil, then there are inconsistencies and the child is confused.
- Homework is best done in a quiet place, away from television and distractions.
- When a child is completing homework parental support, interest and supervision is essential.
- Very often children can use lack of initiative or other excuses for being unable to complete a task, so in any area where there is seen to be a problem by you the parent, this should be clarified early on in the year with the class teacher.
- From Year 3 onwards children will be asked to keep a homework diary or memo in which to record homework given to the class. If possible we would invite cooperation in the development of this independence so that the child be encouraged to record and take home the correct work as far as possible without teacher's assistance.
- We as teachers respect that you as parents are the best teachers of your child, but sometimes we find that teachers' method and parents methods are different. In as far as is possible we will endeavour to see that your child has developed the skill in the classroom before being asked to use it in a homework assignment. This should avoid ambiguity and confusion for the child.
- A written note to the class teacher explaining why homework has not been completed is expected.
- Only if your child is off sick for more than a week will homework be sent home, otherwise children can catch up with reading, learning spellings, tables etc.
- We would ask that all parents to sign and date the homework.

Assessing the effectiveness of homework

- Are pupils practicing basic skills and techniques on a regular basis?
- Are pupils benefiting from a one – to – one reading and talking experience at home?
- Are parents aware of what is currently being taught in school?
- Are parents aware of their child’s approach to schoolwork?

Based on your response to these questions, Is the time spent at home (Parent and Child) and the time spent in class (Teacher and Child) being fruitfully used?

We would see the following as a rough guide to primary school homework:

CLASS	KIND	FREQUENCY	DURATION
Year1	A task from any Curricular area	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 15mins
Year 2	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 20mins
Year 3	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 25mins
Year 4	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 30mins
Year 5	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 35mins
Year 6	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 40 mins
Year 7	“ “ “ “ “ “ “ “	Every night, Mon/Thursday	not more than 50 mins

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It is important to note that there will be days when the class teacher may not assign a homework task. This may happen when:

- Days when there has been disruptions in school e.g.
 - a) Photograph day, sports day, days on which there would be an important visitor who spent time in the class.
 - b) The last few days of each term.
 - c) If the teacher does not foresee time to prepare or mark work
 - d) Days when the children are allowed off homework as a treat or a reward.
 - e) Substitute teachers may or may not give homework.

- There may or may not be a special homework book depending on the individuality of the class teacher, but in respect for the effort children have made to complete homework it will always be monitored and the class teacher will have records of incomplete or inadequate work presented.

- We would invite parents to encourage in their children, neatness, speed, and an efficient approach to homework without placing undue emphasis, so that the child develops a secure, balanced and healthy approach to school learning.

Policy Review

The head teacher and staff will review this policy in the autumn term 2016.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Mr. Brian Mc Guigan Chairman