

Scoil Íosagáin

Policy on: Homework

Homework Policy

It is the policy of our school to assign homework on a regular basis. Parents/Guardians are strongly advised to take an active interest in their child's homework and to sign their Homework Journal each night (ensuring that it is completed).

Aims of Homework

Homework is assigned to help children:

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, ie it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. 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 ability – no more, no less.

Assigning Homework

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

There are two exceptions:

- **If homework has been neglected during the week.**
- **In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends.**
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or in acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- 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.

Content of Homework

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- The balance is not always possible and can vary considerably 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 regularly contain reading, spelling, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing / colouring, collecting information / items and finishing work started in class.
- Children are encouraged to view reading and 'learning by heart' as crucial elements of homework. Parents can play an important role by ensuring this work is given sufficient time and effort.

Timeframe for 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 & 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 & 6	Up to 1 hour 15 minutes

Parental Assistance

Parents should try to help their children with Homework.

- By providing a suitable time and place for homework.
- By keeping interruptions and distractions to a minimum.
- By encouraging children to attempt all homework independently.
- Assistance should only be given when the child is experiencing difficulty. Best practice is to provide further explanation or examples. It is of no benefit to the child if the parent/guardian completes homework for their child.
- If problems persist it is advisable to contact the class teacher.
- Parents should encourage their children to read every night from a variety of reading material e.g. class readers, library books, book bags, newspapers etc...

Monitoring Homework

Parents:

- Parents should check all homework before signing a child's homework journal each 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.
However, information of a sensitive nature between teacher and parent should not be written in the pupil's journal.
- Scoil Íosagáin Information Notes and other letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal or folder. Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis.
- Ideally, homework should be done as soon after school as possible while your child is still fresh.
- Homework should not be left until before school the following morning.

Teachers:

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 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.

Communications about Homework

Parents should communicate with the teachers about homework...

When:

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

Remember if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Ratification and Implementation

This policy was re-ratified by the Board of Management with no changes in June 2017.

It will be due for review in School year 2017/2018.

Signed 
Chairperson, Board of Management.

Signed Alma Aubin June 6th 2017
Principal.