

# Homework Policy

## Aims :

- To reinforce what has been taught in school
- To provide/encourage link between child and parent
- To encourage and develop the habit of working independently (Parents/guardians are encouraged to check that homework is done and it is the child's best effort)
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child – it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, at times, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

## How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given 'Homework Off' as a treat or as acknowledgement of a birthday/special occasion.

## What is the content of homework?

- Generally speaking, homework will contain a balance of reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerable from day to day and from class to class. It should be acknowledged that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

## How much help should parents/guardians give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by
  - providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
  - preventing interruptions and distractions
- Children should be encouraged to do written homework themselves and parents/guardians should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents/guardians should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. If this happens the parent/guardian should bring the problem to the attention of the class teacher (note explaining the problem, 'quick' word with class teacher/make an appointment to talk to teacher)
- Shared reading is meant to be an enjoyable experience between the child and parent/guardian. Shared reading should not be done if it is not enjoyable.

## How often should parents/guardians monitor homework?

- Ideally, parents/guardians should check the 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/guardians and teachers
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly, in the correct page, and ticks each item of homework when completed

## 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 every day
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often eg. perhaps every second day or even once per week

- Some items of work - homework or classwork - may be checked by the children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

#### **When should parents/guardians contact teachers about homework?**

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect
- If your child is spending longer than the recommended time doing it.

#### **Allocation of homework in the various classes :**

##### **Junior Infants :**

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to develop a healthy environment for “reading for leisure” with their child.
- Shared reading : Parents/guardians reading supplementary readers with their child or
  - go over sounds in ‘Jolly Phonics’ book or
  - letter formation or
  - page from workbook eg. Maths

##### **Senior Infants :**

Practice reading nightly -

- Shared reading : Parents/guardians reading supplementary readers with their child or
- go over sounds in ‘Jolly Phonics’ word book
- letter formation or
- page from workbook eg. Maths, Religion, English

**First Class :** English reading, spellings, writing, tables

Religion / S.E.S.E. occasionally, Irish / Maths occasionally (as prepared in class)

##### **Second Class :**

- English reading nightly, ten English spellings ‘over’ over the week, ‘set of tables’, English sentences, sums and Religion / S.E.S.E. occasionally, Irish reading / writing occasionally

##### **Third Class :**

- Mental Maths and Tables nightly, Busy at Maths occasionally. Tables’ tests on Friday
- Reading : English Reader/SESE/Novel and/or Gaeilge
- Writing: Spelling tasdscomprehension, grammar, research occasionally
- Spellings: English and Irish tests on Fridays
- Occasionaliy: Complete unfinished class work

#### **Fourth Class :**

- Mental Maths and Tables nightly, Busy at Maths occasionally
- Reading : English Reader/SESE/Novel and/or Gaeilge
- Writing: comprehension, grammar, research etc.
- Spellings: English test on Thursday, Irish test on Friday
- Occasional: Complete unfinished class work, learn English/Irish poetry, Maths' activities from Home/School Links' sheet ( parents' discretion), independent research

#### **Fifth Class:**

Homework will consist of a selection of the following –

- Irish verbs and spellings
- English spellings
- Times' tables and Metal Maths
- Reading
- Occasionally, class work to be completed
- Occasionally, SESE work and projects

#### **Sixth Class :**

Sixth Class homework will be a selection of –

- Maths' exercises to consolidate work covered in class
- English spellings and phonics' sheets
- 'Reading' from English, Gaeilge and SESE
- Comprehension and other writing activities relating to reading
- English writing exercises relating to Grammar and the writing genres
- Irish grammar and vocabulary exercises – oral and written
- Briathra to be learned and sentences related to briathra
- Research work for projects
- Religion

#### **Please note!**

**If homework is a stressful experience, on a regular basis, between parent/guardian and the child something is wrong. This defeats the whole purpose and leads to poor learning. Should this be happening please contact the class teacher.**

#### **Success Criteria:**

Observation and feedback from parents, pupils and teachers.

#### **Implementation and Review:**

This latest review of our Homework Policy took place during September 2018. Staff, Board of Management and Parents' Association had an input onto this review. Our next review of the policy will take place during September 2019.

**Ratification and Communication:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Bríde, Blackwater, on .....12/9/19.....  
Parents may view this policy at the school, by appointment with the Principal.

Signed : *B. O'Leary* *M. Kelly*  
.....  
(Chairperson BOM)