

Scoil Náisiúnta Ghlinse

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Homework Policy

The school recognises the importance of close, positive Home-School links and the fostering of a partnership which will ultimately culminate in the development of the children to the fullest extent.

Homework often brings the Home-School Link into focus. School policy encourages constructive home assignments which re-enforce the learning of concepts taught each day. School policy also encourages families to provide the right environment for their children to carry out their assignments free from distractions.

To enable “Homework” to be completed in a beneficial way it shall be school policy that assignments are listed in the standard Homework diary so that parents, who wish to encourage their children in their work, will have a clear understanding of their “Homework” assignments. The Homework diary will be used in all classes from Senior Infant Class to Sixth Class. The Homework diary can be checked/ signed by parents to ensure that work is completed.

Homework is viewed as being valuable because:

- It can increase the rate of progress by pupils.
- It encourages children to develop work skills in an atmosphere that is not dictated by the school routine.
- Pupils also have the opportunity to use whatever resources that are available to them at home e.g. Books or Internet which may not be available within the school.
- Parents can become directly involved and be fully aware of the pupil’s work at school.
- Homework can allow parents the opportunity to encourage and motivate the child in a loving atmosphere.

Homework Assignments:

- Homework will from time to time involve work on projects which will allow opportunities for research and for working on an assignment over a period of time.
- Homework helps prepare the pupil for work at post-primary school.
- Homework assignments must be appropriate to the ability of the pupil.
- In assigning homework, teachers expect that the work is achievable by the child working on their own to the best of their ability.

How often is Homework given?

In all classes, homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays. Pupils have a library book to read for the weekend

In senior classes project work maybe given on Fridays at the discretion of the teacher

Class teachers, or the principal, may decide that pupils are given “No Homework” on special occasions.

Guidelines for time spent at homework:

It is not possible to define the specific time that a child will spend at homework.

Different children will complete the same tasks at a different rate and in a different length of time. However, if we value homework then it is important a guideline be set for the average duration of time spent at homework. The following guidelines are suggested:

- Infants: 0-20 Minutes
- First and Second Class: 20-30 Minutes
- Third and Fourth Class: 30-45 Minutes
- Fifth and Sixth Class: 40-60 Minutes

School policy recognises that some children – even while making their best effort – may not be able to complete tasks within the time stated in the guidelines. If a child has to spend a huge amount of time at their homework, then it could be defeating its purpose. In such cases, parents are encouraged to consult with the class teacher/Learning Support teacher so that more appropriate tasks may be assigned.

Homework content:

Homework will normally contain a variety of tasks including reading, spellings, tables, written work, ‘Learning by heart’, drawing, collecting information. It should also

contain a balance of various subjects. Pupils will often disregard homework tasks that do not include a written element of work. Parents are reminded that they can play a very valuable role in listening to reading and to items that are to be learned.

Pupils:

- Make sure the work assigned each day is written carefully into the homework diary.
- Take care to take home the specific books or copies that you will need.
- Complete all assignments to the best of your ability, taking pride in your work and ensuring neatness at all times.

Parents:

- Parents can encourage a positive attitude towards homework at all ages.
- Encourage your child to work independently – be available to guide but avoid giving too much help. Encourage children to organise their schoolbags, their books, copies etc.
- The Homework Diary should be ticked/ signed by the parent when the work is completed.
- If you find that the child is having difficulty in completing exercise – make sure to use the diary or a private note to communicate your concern to the teacher.
- If there is a particular reason why homework could not be completed (e.g. family events) then this should be communicated to the teacher.

N.B. If homework causes stress and worry to the child, parents/guardians are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher without delay.

Teachers:

- Assign homework that is achievable and helps to reinforce concepts that are being taught at school.
- Homework assignments should normally be reviewed on a daily basis and pupils given feedback on their work. In some cases, homework assignments may be reviewed less often and some exercises may be ‘self-correcting’ or checked by other children in the Class under the direction of the teacher.

Homework not completed:

Homework is regarded as an intrinsic part of school work. As such all pupils are expected to have it fully completed and to have made their best effort to have it

complete. When homework is not completed, pupils may be required to complete it during the school day, or to complete it the following night. Failure to have homework completed on a regular basis must be noted, by the Teacher, in the homework diary.

Homework Policy: Review No. 4 (Feb 2022)

Signed: _____(Staff)

Signed: _____(Chairperson B.O.M.)