



CILL FLAINN

AG FÁS, AG FOGHLAIM, AG FORBAIRT

HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

In Scoil Treasa Naofa, Cill Flainn we value homework as a means of reinforcing what the pupil learns during the day at school. We look on it as an essential tool in the development of concentration skills and a work ethic. **Each pupil is expected to complete homework to the best of his/her individual ability - no more, no less.**

RATIONALE

This homework policy was drafted to

- Further strengthen home-school links
- Reinforce the learning experienced by the pupils during the school day
- Ensure clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the policy are:-

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
- To foster self-discipline and study skills
- To enable the children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is achievable
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
- To further develop links between home and school

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES/IMPLEMENTATION

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils and parents right up to the Board of Management.

ISSUING OF HOMEWORK

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
Homework is not given on Fridays except in certain circumstances e.g.

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends.

At the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are sometimes given 'homework off' as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Where homework is not completed and the reason for such is unexplained by way of a note from parent, the following staged response will be followed:

1. Teacher will contact parents via note in homework diary.
2. Teacher will contact parents by telephone.
3. Parents will be requested to attend a meeting with the teacher in school.

In line with the school's Code of Behaviour, extra work may be prescribed by a teacher as a means of sanction for behaviour which is deemed to be in breach of the aforementioned code or if a child has failed to do homework or hasn't made a suitable effort appropriate to the individual's ability.

HOMEWORK CONTENT

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This 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, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- **Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned so as to ensure that this work is done well.**

GUIDE TO HOMEWORK DURATION

Junior Infants: Up to 10 minutes

Occasionally, child friendly tasks are issued. It is recommended that parents read to and with their children on a regular basis. Paired reading is encouraged.

Senior Infants: Up to 20 minutes

Reading and/or written work. Paired reading is encouraged.

First & Second Class: 0 - 40 minutes
Maths, Gaeilge, English and topical work

Third & Fourth Class: 45minutes - 1 hour
Maths, Gaeilge, English and topical work

Fifth & Sixth Class: 1 hour - 1¼ hours
Maths, Gaeilge, English and topical work

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS

- Provide suitable and comfortable facilities.
- Remove distractions - television, younger siblings etc.
- As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible after school. Some children, however, need a break before starting homework.
- Homework should never be left until morning time.
- Parents should not do the homework for their children.
- The journal is an important record of the child's homework. Please check that your child records the homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Help your child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework diary.
- Notify the class teacher if your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances or because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework often exceeds the recommended duration.
- Check and sign the homework diary every evening.
- Parents should have a replacement of rulers, pencils, erasers, etc. for their child/children.

MONITORING OF HOMEWORK AT SCHOOL

- Teachers endeavour to check homework on a daily basis.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day.
- Children themselves, under the direction of the teacher, may check some items of homework (and class work). This is an important learning process in self-assessment for children.

LEARNING SUPPORT

Learning Support teachers will have a special programme of work for the children receiving additional support. This programme is designed to suit each

child's individual needs. Parents are consulted regarding drawing up the programme. The progress made by their child at the end of the instructional term is discussed with them also.

LEISURE TIME READING

A survey by the Department of Education and Skills (2005) highlights the importance of cultivating the habit of independent reading. Leisure time reading is essentially an out-of-school activity yet it does not easily fit into our homework model.

How can we foster and develop this habit in our children?

- Encourage children to choose books independently.
- Talk to children about their choice of books and be aware of what they are reading in their leisure time.
- Encourage children to spend time reading on a regular basis. This should include weekends and holidays.
- Library books should be brought back each week on the appropriate day. Every child should have a book for silent reading in class and one to read at home. Some children are well able to cope with reading two books concurrently. For others this is too confusing and so they need help organising themselves for their reading activities.
- Continue reading aloud with your child as long as he or she considers it an enjoyable activity.
- Let your children see you reading.
- Join a public library.

Remember, if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher, by making an appointment.

MONITORING & REVIEW

This policy will be monitored on an on-going basis and each September will be reviewed by the teaching staff and BoM in light of experiences.

RATIFICATION AND COMMUNICATION

This policy was circulated and communicated to members of the school community following its ratification by the Board of Management (BoM).

Signed _____ Date _____
Chairperson

