



Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

Homework is an ideal opportunity to foster an educational partnership between home and school. This homework policy was formulated by the staff, in consultation with parents and approved by the Board of Management. It outlines reasons for homework, types of homework that may be given, recommended times to be spent on homework, advice on conditions that should be available to the pupil and what to do if problems arise.

Rationale

Teachers wished to review the homework policy to ensure that it reflects the new approaches and methodologies of the revised curriculum.

Aims

- To consolidate work being done at school.
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work.
- To develop and encourage the habit of independent study.

Guidelines for Teachers

Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done – not as an exercise in isolation. Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done. Homework must be consistent – a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it. Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.

Guidelines for Parents

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children

Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has a difficulty. If a child has a difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem. Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

Homework Types

Homework may be of two types. These are:

Drill and exercise in the core subjects. Study in these subjects can take many forms: arithmetic problems, studying and writing spelling lists, learning tables, practising penmanship, completing grammar exercises.

Activities which supplement school instruction in the content subject.

These can be drawing pictures and learning religion questions, making maps or scrapbooks, writing letters to pen pals, viewing recommended television programmes and collecting concrete materials that can be used in class.

Homework should never be an introduction to unfamiliar material. When a child is asked to study new and unfamiliar material, he/she is confused and often misinterprets the content. Some children may be tempted to badger their parents into doing their homework; others are given misinformation at home, while, worst of all, some children will be turned off homework through pure frustration. Provided that children have a good comprehension of the content, there is nothing wrong with rote learning (tables, grammar rules, mnemonics) and memorising (poems, songs, religion questions).

In order that parents be acquainted with the homework which their children have to do, homework journals shall be used in each room (1st-6th Class)

Children with learning difficulties learn better through using concrete materials and by having relatively short assignments with repetition of simple facts and numerous illustrations. Because they are likely to require considerable individual assistance with homework it is important to set standards of achievement at the child's level. Do not assign the same quantity of homework to them as to the main body of the class. For instance, assign only the first five questions of a 15 – question exercise in grammar. Arrange for considerable practise with basic skills. Emphasise neatness and thoroughness in all they do. Homework will be differentiated for pupils as deemed appropriate by the class teacher.

Time

Allotted time that expect the average child in each class to spend at homework:

Junior Infants 10 – 15 minutes

Senior Infants 15 – 25 minutes

First and Second- No more than 30 minutes

Third and Fourth 30 – 45 minutes

Fifth and Sixth class 45 minutes – 1 hour

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends; however, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

The first Wednesday of each month children will have no written homework and are encouraged to get active and enjoy some family time.

How often should parents monitor homework?

Parents should check and sign a 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 and teachers.

Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal.

Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

Newsletters and other letters to parents are

folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal or lunchbox (infants). Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis.

(Please note, that in line with our Covid Response Plan, the use of the journal and the manner in which we communicate letters/notes, may vary until it is deemed safe to return to the methods described above)

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 and/or journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.

Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances, when your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect of it or if the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different and so it is different to suggest a 'one size fits all' solution. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school while your child is still fresh. However, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school

*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.

Success Criteria

The success of this policy will be determined by:

Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents.

Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.

Time-frame

This policy will be reviewed regularly. (ideally every 2 years)

Ratification and Communication

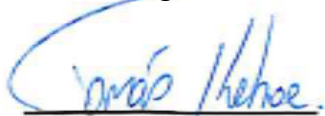
This policy was originally reviewed and implemented in November 2018

This policy will be reviewed in September 2023 or earlier if required and amended as necessary.

Ratification and Communication

The Board of Management of Ballyoughter NS ratified this plan on 24/11/2021.

Signed:



(Chairperson BOM)