
Homework Policy

SCOIL MHUIRE, CLONDRA



This homework policy of Scoil Mhuire Clondra was formulated to strengthen existing positive home-school links. Parents can monitor the progress of their children by observing and helping with their homework and by liaising with teachers. The homework policy was formulated by staff in 1999. It was reviewed in June 2007, May 2011 April 2015 and March 2021. Current review, April 2025.

Rationale

Homework is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and life-long learning. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education. Our Homework Policy seeks to clarify for the whole school community what expectations are in relation to homework and the benefits we hope to gain from children completing homework. We hope to:

- Further strengthen home-school links
- Maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning
- Ensure clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework.

Relationship to School Ethos

It is the policy of the school to, as far as possible, identify all the needs of the pupil and put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs. The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of the policy are:

- To develop skills and self-discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning
- To reinforce work done in class – it allows for revision and practice.
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable.
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
- To further develop links between home and school.
- To provide opportunities for creativity.

Resources

- Communication of weekly homework through Aladdin
- Interactive Screens
- Work Sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.

Policy Content

It is this school's policy that some type of homework is given each night on a time graded basis – no overloading. We see homework as a continuation of lesson or lessons taught during the day. It is also an opportunity to explore new areas e.g., projects. Homework will not be given at weekends.

Teachers may use the Aladdin school management system to set homework and provide additional resources for its completion.

Pupils are expected to complete homework which may be oral, written or memorisation. Homework is an important part of the child's learning. It links the home and school and can be a means of self-discipline and good study habits for the pupil. Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active interest in their child's homework. A special emphasis is laid on nightly spellings and tables and reading. Parents expect homework to be given and it is also a good way for them to be involved in the child's education. It gets the child into the habit of home studying which will increase greatly when they move to secondary school.

If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are asked to talk to the teacher. Homework is set on a Monday and not collected or corrected until Friday. Families can complete written homework in a way that suits them. We recommend that reading, spelling and tables are practiced every night. We encourage parents to take an active part in their child's religious programme and say the prayers with them.

The following is a guideline as to the amount of time each class is expected to spend at homework each night.

Junior Infants	- 10/15 minutes
Senior Infants	- 15/20 minutes
1st & 2nd Class	- 30 minutes
3rd & 4th Class	- 45 minutes approx.
5th & 6th Class	- 1 hour approx.

- Homework is generally based on class-related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- The assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of the pupils are also taken into account.
- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursday and generally is not given at weekends unless it has been neglected during the week, or unless exceptional circumstances such as projects occur.
- It is not school policy to issue homework as an exercise in isolation. It will in most instances be an integral part of the subject being taught and be consistent.
- The Special Education Teacher will occasionally give home-work to their allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of class work. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- Teachers check homework on a daily or weekly basis. Some homework may be self-correcting. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be

required to redo this work during lunch break. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly, especially if some work has been completed in a crèche setting or after-school club.

- A night 'off' homework may be given at a teacher's discretion. In general, all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning 'by heart', drawing, collecting information, colouring and finishing class work.

Suggestions for Parents

- Have a positive attitude to homework.
- Provide suitable, comfortable facilities.
- Remove distractions – T.V., screens/tablets, younger siblings etc.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Parents should not do the homework for their children.
- Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the Aladdin.
- Check that all homework has been completed.
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
- As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
- Discourage morning work.
- Parents should have a stock of ruler, pencils, rubbers, table books etc. available should the need arise.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, copies, pencils and any other items needed for the next school day.
- Ensure that care is taken with school resources (PM Readers and other books) and that these are returned to school in the same condition they were given.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

Monitoring and Evaluating

- Ideally teachers like to check reading on a daily basis. However, it is not always possible to check each child's reading each day.
- 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 the children.
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Teacher observations
- Feedback from parents and pupils
- General air of satisfaction.

Parents should communicate with the teachers when:

- Your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- Your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect of the work.

- The time spent on homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different – both parents working, child-minders, etc. 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.
- Ideally homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Remember if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child on a regular basis, please contact the school. This can lead to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose.

Missed Work due to Pupil Absences

Teachers expect parental co-operation in completing work missed by their child due to absences. This is expected to be completed over a period of time.

Roles and Responsibilities

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

The original policy has been in operation in the school since September 1999.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed as necessary but at the latest April 2027.

RATIFICATION

This policy was ratified on _____

Signed: _____

Mrs Mary Duignan, Chairperson, Board of Management, Scoil Mhuire, Clondra.