



Scoil Áine Naofa, Lough Cútra Homework Policy

Introduction

Scoil Áine Naofa sees homework as a means of providing additional time for structured learning, bridging the gap between home and school and giving parents direct involvement in their child's learning. The setting of tasks to be undertaken at home will be normal practice from Junior Infants onwards. Through this policy we hope to strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Scoil Áine Naofa has been formulated by the School Principal in consultation with the teaching staff, the pupils, the parents and the Board of Management. As part of the consultation process, surveys were completed by pupils and parents.

Rationale

The need to formulate and implement the homework policy in the school can be attributed to the following:

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the school day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To test the child's understanding of work covered.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To ensure clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework.

Aims and Objectives of the policy

- to promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
- To enable the pupils to develop a sense of responsibility and independence.
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a homework programme that is realistic.
- To foster self-discipline and study skills.
- To further develop links between home and school.

Please note that it is school policy not to allocate or prepare homework for children who are on holiday during school time. Parents/Guardians of children who are sick for an extended period/hospitalized should talk to the class teacher.

Content

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes

with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no written homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. There are some exceptions:

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

Sometimes at the discretion of the principal, in consultation with the class teachers, children are given "Homework off" as a treat or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion. Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not completed work, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

Homework passes

Homework passes are connected to Class Dojo in some classes. Sometimes, your child may get a homework pass as a reward for gaining Dojo points or for a special occasion or achievement. If you do not want your child to receive homework passes or you feel they are getting too many of them, please talk to the class teacher.

What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance may not always be 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. Differentiated homework may be allocated to children with special educational needs or to children that have difficulties in different subject areas.

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 ensuring this work is done well.

How much (time) homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. Therefore, we also ask parents not to read ahead in the class reader or do extra pages in workbooks etc. as this causes confusion in class and can defeat the purpose for which the homework was assigned.

The following are general guidelines only on duration of homework:

Junior/Senior Infants	Between 15 and 20 minutes
Rang 1/Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3/Rang 4	Between 30 -45 minutes
Rang 5/Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

How much help should parents give?

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 work independently on written homework and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. If a child has 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 or communicate with them through Class DOJO explaining the problem.

Homework Journal

Pupils from 1st class to 6th class have a homework journal. All allocated homework will be recorded there. Children should tick each item as it has been completed. The class teacher writes the homework pm the whiteboard before lunch and allows time for the pupils to copy it into their homework journals. In 1st/2nd class, the homework is also put on Class DOJO.

Parents are asked to sign the journal when all tasks are completed each evening. Homework Journals will be checked by the teacher on a daily basis.

If, on occasion, the homework cannot either be done or completed, please let the teacher know by writing a note in the homework journal or sending a message on Class DOJO.

Often, if a teacher needs to write a note to parents, it will be written in the homework journal. In Junior/Senior Infants there are no homework journals. Parents are asked to sign the homework sheet daily.

Correction of homework

In Junior Infants-2nd class and in the Special Class, the pupils have homework folders and homework is corrected at the end of each week but checked daily.

In 3rd-6th class homework is corrected on a daily basis where possible.

When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, attendance at afterschool 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. It is important to still check and sign your child's homework if they attend afterschool/creche/childminder.

It should never be left until morning time before school as it can be rushed and of poor quality.

What if homework is not done?

- Parents are asked to communicate this with the class teacher by writing a note in homework journal or through Class DOJO.

- Parents are notified through a note in homework journal or a message on Class DOJO. (code of discipline?)
- Pupils are asked to do it the following night
- If there are repeated instances of homework being not completed with no exceptional circumstances, it will be dealt with through the School Code of Behaviour.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Principal will

- Communicate the homework policy to parents
- Support teachers in the implementation of the policy

Teachers are responsible for:

- Administering homework based on the recommended homework policy.
- Ensuring that pupils have enough time to write down their homework.
- Ensuring that all children in the class have their homework written down, giving assistance if necessary.
- Putting homework on Class DOJO (1st/2nd class teacher)
- Explaining the homework to the pupil in advance.
- Checking daily that homework is completed and signed by parents.
- Pitching difficulty level of homework to the needs of the class.
- Consulting with the SET Teachers regarding needs of children availing of support.
- Praising the student for completing assignments.
- Correcting homework
- Providing feedback and help if necessary.

Pupils are expected to:

- Write assignments clearly and neatly in their diary on a daily basis (1st-6th class)
- Show their diary to parents and have it signed.
- Complete all assignments neatly and honestly.
- Work independently and ask for help only when needed.
- Read independently (or with a family member) on a daily basis.

Parents are encouraged to:

- Check that all homework has been completed and sign the homework diary (1st-6th class) or homework sheet (Jun/Sen Infants).
- Plan a homework schedule and a place free from interruptions for their child.
- Assist the child if necessary but not do the homework for their child.
- Encourage the student and praise them when they have completed assignments.
- Encourage reading – either paired or independent.
- Communicate with teacher through a note in homework journal or class DOJO if your child encounters difficulty, has spent an undue time at homework or cannot complete work due to special circumstances.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on a yearly basis

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed: *David Greene*
Chairperson BoM

Lorraine Power
Principal

Date: *16/02/2022*