

Homework

Homework is given for the following reasons:

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skill and to develop a work ethic
- 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 it 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

Frequency

- Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but is not given on Friday. There are two exceptions :
 1. If homework has been neglected during the week
 2. In some classes project work is undertaken at weekends
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'No homework' as a treat or as acknowledgment of a special occasion
- Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework or made a suitable effort

Content of Homework

- 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
- It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work
- Homework may contain reading, spelling, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learnt by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information, finishing items started in class

Parents play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned by ensuring this work is well done

Time allocation

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. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	Up to 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 10 minutes
First Class	Up to 20 minutes
Second Class	Up to 30 minutes
Third Class	Up to 45 minutes
Fourth Class	Up to 45 minutes
Fifth Class	Up to 60 minutes
Sixth Class	Up to 60 minutes

Parental involvement

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework

Preventing interruptions or distractions (television/noise)

- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child has difficulty with homework, parents should help with further explanations or examples but not by actually doing the homework for the child themselves. In this case the parents should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem

Parents Monitoring 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

Teachers Monitoring 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 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 class work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children

Communication

Teachers should be contacted (in writing in the homework journal):

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because they cannot understand an aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time

When should homework be done?

- Ideally homework should be done straight 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

Learning Support

Class teachers and learning support teachers may liaise to assign appropriate/ differentiated homework.

Information Technology

Consideration will be given to family circumstances when assigning research topics.

Note:

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.

Implemented	May 2005
Reviewed	April 2014
To be reviewed	April 2018

Should an issue arise regarding this policy, the staff may revise this policy at any time.

This policy was ratified by:

1. The staff of Gaelscoil Chill Mhantáin
2. The Parents Association
3. The Board of Management

Date:

Signature of Chairperson of the Board of Mangement _____

