



SN Tulach Uí Chadhain

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility. And promotes lifelong learning. It re-enforces what children learn in school, provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education. In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is prepared by the teacher in class and is generally an extension or repetition of work completed in class.

Aim:

The aim of this policy is to:

- Promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
- Provide clarity to parents around expectations of homework

Homework Content

Usually, homework contains 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, ensuring this work is done well.

Homework is more beneficial if carefully planned by teachers and if it has direct meaning to students. It should be a positive experience.

When is Homework given?

Homework is usually given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays with certain exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week, without explanation from parents.
- In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends.
- Children may bring library books home to read for enjoyment at the weekends.
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat, as a reward or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Duration of Homework

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent may 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:

Infants Up to 20 minutes
1st & 2nd 20 to 30 minutes
3rd & 4th 30 to 40 minutes
5th & 6th 40 to 50 minutes

If a child **regularly** struggles to finish their homework within a time that is reasonably close to the suggested time above, **following consistent and maintained effort in an appropriate environment**, then parents should provide a note to the class teacher to inform them.

Parents'/Guardians' Role:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. The pupil should have all books and materials to hand and have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Monitor how long their child is spending at homework.
- Set clear but realistic starting and finishing times to keep children focused and to avoid homework 'dragging on' all evening.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and TV.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Ensure they read with/to their child/ren regularly, in a relaxed atmosphere where the emphasis is on enjoyment.
- Sign the homework diary checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, PE clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal.
- Ensure that children take the necessary time and care when completing reading or learning tasks.

Teachers' Role:

- Set appropriate homework
- Review assignments and provide feedback to students
- Monitor and differentiate homework to cater for all pupils
- Think critically about what is being assigned and why it is being assigned
- Regularly evaluate the homework they set to ensure that it is of benefit to the children

Pupils' Role:

- Enter homework accurately at school in their homework diary
- Ensure they take home the relevant books and copies
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability

- Present their work carefully and neatly
- Return assignments on time.
- If homework has not been completed, bring a note to their teacher with an explanation why

What happens when Homework is not done?


- Parents should send a note, in the homework diary, to the class teacher explaining why their child has been unable to complete their homework.
- Pupil's may be instructed to catch up on homework that isn't done if a note is not presented.
- Sanctions imposed for continuous failure to complete homework will align with the school's Code of Behaviour
- When homework is not done regularly or without explanation the teacher will contact parents with a view to discussing and resolving the situation.
- If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Consultation and Communication

The Board of Management and staff of SN Tulach Uí Chadahin were consulted in the formulation of this policy. The policy will be made available to all the school community. All new and temporary staff will be informed of the details of the policy. This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Ratification and Review

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 2nd February 2022 and will be reviewed every 3 years. The policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parent's Association.

Signed  _____

Date: 02/02/2022

Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  _____

Date: 02/02/2022

School Principal