



Scoil Naomh Mhuire, Staplestown, Co. Kildare

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## Homework Policy 2023

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Mhuire recognises homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

### Aims

In general, the broad aims of this homework policy are:

- To reinforce what is already being done in class.
- To develop a sense of study and working independently.
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their child's / children's education.
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work that is doable.

### 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.
- Where pupils are receiving additional support from a member of the SEN team, the class teacher and the SEN teacher will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.
- In response to surveys carried out among parents and children, it is agreed that priority should be given to reading homework and maths to include tables.

- To reduce the stress and anxiety that homework causes some children, it is agreed that there will be no homework given for the months of September, December and June, with an emphasis put on children reading more during these months.
- Teachers may at times assign project work to be carried out instead of the usual weekly homework.
- Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework on Fridays, but this is at the discretion of the teacher. If homework has been neglected during the week, children may need to complete it over the weekend.
- Play is the lens through which children experience the world, so teachers may assign "play" homework.
- Allotted time that teachers are to expect the average child in each class to spend at homework:
  - Infants                      Teacher discretion
  - 1st & 2nd Class      20 - 30 minutes
  - 3rd & 4th Class      30 - 40 minutes
  - 5th & 6th Class      up to 1 hour
- Teachers of the infant classes should communicate and explain the role, type and nature of homework to parents by sending home a note when new homework is introduced.
- Teachers of 1st - 6th class pupils should provide adequate time for children to record their homework in their homework diaries and ensure children take home the necessary copies and books required to complete their homework.
- All teachers should constantly remind children that part of their homework is that they should make sure that they are prepared for the next school day - sharpen pencils, return all items into their folder/school bag etc.

### **Expectations of Pupils**

It is expected that pupils will:

- Return their homework on time.
- Complete and present their homework to the best of their ability.
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- If homework has not been completed, a note or email must be sent in by a parent or guardian.

## **Guidelines for Parents**

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are encouraged to:

- Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework.
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing the homework journal on completion.
- Be a resource for your child, but do not do their work for them.
- Remember that sometimes the best help is a word of encouragement, or an acknowledgement of the effort that is being made.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances, but if this is a regular occurrence parents will be contacted.
- Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher.
- All children from first to sixth have a homework diary that parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.

## **Creating the homework habit**

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child's approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

- Sit down with your child and together schedule a time for completing homework assignments. Homework habits are more easily formed if children work at the same time each day.
- Help your child choose an appropriate study location - a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading.
- Provide your child with good lighting and necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, paper and a dictionary.
- Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarize what he or she learned.
- If your child does need help, look over the material before you begin so you are familiar with the assignment.
- If your child becomes frustrated, put the assignment away for a while.
- Please be available to check whether the assignment has been completed.
- Praise your child for completing homework.
- When possible, help your child relate homework assignments to everyday life and skills.

### **Sanctions for homework not done or incomplete homework**

If homework is incomplete or not completed to a good standard, children will need to complete during golden time or over the weekend.

**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.**

### **Ratification**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

Signed Megan Caldwell Chairperson

Date 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024