



Scoil Mhuire Nàisi Grást, Béal Guala

Homework Policy

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. The homework policy of Scoil Mhuire Nàisi Grást has been formulated by staff, and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Rationale

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy of the school can be attributed to the following –

- Promoting positive communication and strengthening positive home-school links
- Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day
- Ensuring 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 is 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 endeavor as far as is possible to ensure that homework is **a bridge and not a battle**
- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
- To enable the children develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable
- To foster self-discipline and study skills
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
- To further develop links between home and school

Resources

- Homework Diary
- Blackboard / Whiteboard
- Work sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.

- I.C.T.

Policy Content

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. Homework is normally given by the class teacher and/ or SEN teachers in consultation with teachers and parents. The following are the allocations for our school –

Junior Infants: - No homework

Occasionally, child friendly tasks are issued. It is recommended that parents read to and with their children on a regular basis.

Senior Infants: - 0 – 15 minutes

Reading and/or occasional worksheets. The school attempts to maintain a balance between oral, reading and written work. Paired reading is encouraged in infant classes.

Rang a hAon: - 0 – 20 minutes

Reading, worksheet, sums, spellings, miscellaneous.

Rang a Dó: - 0 – 20 minutes

Reading, maths, sentences, worksheets, miscellaneous.

Rang a Trí: - 0 – 30 minutes

Tables, maths, reading, worksheets, miscellaneous.

Rang a Ceathar: - 0 – 30 minutes

Maths, oral, sentences, topical work, miscellaneous.

Rang a Cuíg: - 0 – 40 minutes

Maths, Gaeilge, English, miscellaneous.

Rang a Sé: - 0 – 75 minutes

Maths, English, Gaeilge, topical work, miscellaneous.

- 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 Thursdays. For weekends it is school policy not to mark homework and to encourage all children to read, unless it has been neglected during the week, or unless exceptional circumstances such as projects occur. Children might fill in “Books I have read” sheet.

- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked /behaved well.
- 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 Learning Support Teachers will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of work undertaken in class. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note.
- Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self -correcting. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to re do this work during lunch break. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly.
- All children have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.
- “Homework off” may be given at a teachers 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.

Procedures for Parents

The school recognizes and takes into consideration the language and literacy levels of individual families.

1. Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
2. Remove distractions – T.V. younger siblings etc.
3. Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
4. Parents should not do the homework for their children.
5. Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary.
6. Check and sign homework diaries.
7. Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
8. As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
9. Discourage morning homework, or homework done on the bus or the car.
10. Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table books etc. available should the need arise.

Evaluation

- In-class corrections
- Checking homework diaries

- Parent – Teacher meetings
- Teacher designated tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback from parents and pupils
- General air of satisfaction
- Teacher keeps a record of no homework done, or left at home regularly
- Teacher will give credit for effort as well as achievement.

Roles and Responsibilities / Implementation

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

This policy will be in operation in the school from September 2008.

Ratification / Communication

The policy will be ratified by the Board of Management and communicated to all parents.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended in October 2010.

Success criteria will be assessed from feedback from teachers, parents and pupils

References

The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary school years. - Brian Gilsenan	
Your Child in the Primary school	- I.N.T.O
Your Child's Learning	- D.E.S. Primary School Curriculum