

Homework Policy

Kilross N.S.

Aims of Homework

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and 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 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 from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or holidays.

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. , screens or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves 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 explaining the problem

How often should parents monitor 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
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal)

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. Some items of homework are checked less often such as tables e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.
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When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, 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

Remember

Homework should not be a stressful experience between parent and child. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, parents should contact the class teacher.

Overview of homework for various class levels:

Junior Infants:

Recommended time- 10-15 minutes.

Infants will get a small amount of homework initially for example two sounds per week, plus a written exercise each night. It is recommended that parents go back over work done in school- sounds, counting, colouring, nursery rhymes. Children also benefit greatly from listening to stories and this can form part of the homework.

Reading books are generally sent home after Easter.

Senior Infants:

Recommended time- 20 minutes.

Work for senior infants is similar to that of Junior Infants. Parents are asked to go back over work already done in school. Children should go back over sounds book, reading, words & wordlists. Children in the infant classes are not yet ready for a homework diary so homework will be written in a notebook. Again children in senior infants will get a written activity each night.

1st/2nd Class:

Recommended time- 30 minutes.

Children in these classes will use a homework diary. In these classes children will do reading and spellings each night. Second class will also have Irish spellings.

Written homework will also be given.

Reading with parents is still very important.

3rd/4th Class:

Recommended time 45 minutes.

Oral work remains an important part of work in the senior classes. It is important that children become fluent readers to prepare them for increased levels of reading. Children should read from class readers every night in English and Irish.

Children are given spellings and tables every night. It is important that children spend time on these areas every night. There is usually written work to do with spellings every night.

Children will have maths homework every night usually in the form of Mental Maths.

5th/6th Class:

Recommended time 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Oral work

Again this area is very important for each child's progress. English and Irish reading. Reading is very important to prepare your child for secondary school and to improve vocabulary.

English and Irish spelling

Tables

There is usually written work to do with spellings every night.

Children will have maths homework every night usually in the form of Mental Maths including problem solving.

Signed:

Trevor Sweetman

Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 30/09/24

Signed:

Róisín Coughlan

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 30/09/24