



SCOIL NAOMH ÁINE

RATHGAROGUE

Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy was devised by teachers in consultation with pupils, parents/guardians and approved by the Board of Management. Its purpose is to provide information and guidelines on homework to all staff members, Board of Management members, parents and guardians.

Reasons for homework

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and lifelong learning. It is an important part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education, therefore an ideal opportunity to foster an educational partnership between home and school.

In general, homework should be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class however sometimes homework may be assigned by the SET. If children are receiving homework from the SET, this should be done in collaboration with the class teacher to ensure that children are not receiving double homework. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Monday to Thursday but not on Fridays with certain exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given an evening 'free from written homework' as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Children who win 'Dalta na Seachtaine' or 'Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine' at Assembly receive a homework pass which entitles them to one night free from written homework.
- Children receive a homework pass on their birthday which entitles them to one night free from written homework.
- In infants, homework for the week is assigned every Monday. Children complete this homework and upload a picture of it to their Seesaw account. This work can be uploaded each evening or by Thursday evening.
- In 1st - 6th class, homework is assigned for the week every Monday both digitally on Aladdin and in hardcopy format.

Homework Content

Homework begins in Junior Infants after the midterm break in October. Homework generally 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 can contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be learned, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

On the first Monday of every month, we have 'Mindfulness Monday'. On these days, teachers swap written homework for a mindful activity. This activity can be assigned by the teacher or can be chosen by the child at home. Examples include; Cosmic Kids Yoga or Go Noodle mindful activities, playing board games, jig-saws, nature walks, arts and crafts etc. Children can share pictures of this homework on Seesaw or discuss it with their class the next day.

We hold an 'Active Week' once a year and during this week, teachers can swap written homework for some active homework each night. This activity can be assigned by the teacher or can be chosen by the child at home. Examples include; cycling, walking, running, trampolining, exercises such as jumping jacks, playing soccer/hurling in your garden etc. Children can share pictures of this homework on Seesaw or discuss it with their class the next day.

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 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:

Infants	-	10- 20 minutes
Rang 1 and 2	-	20 to 25 minutes
Rang 3 and 4	-	25 to 30 minutes
Rang 5 and 6	-	30 to 40 minutes

The following are suggestions for homework activities for each class.

Junior/Senior Infants 10-20 minutes per evening

Reading (once formal reading had begun) Reading word lists (Sight words and Phonics words) Practicing sounds orally, Written Maths, Mental/Oral Maths e.g counting practise, Oral Irish activities such as practicing phrases and words or Listen and Draw activities, writing, workbook activities, active homework, mindful homework.

First & second classes 20-25 minutes

Reading, Irish reading, spellings (English), tables, Maths every night

Third & fourth classes 25-30 minutes

Reading, Irish reading, spellings (English and Irish), tables, Maths, written activity every night

Fifth & sixth classes 30-40 minutes

Reading, Irish reading, spellings (English and Irish), Maths, written activity every night

Pupils should:

- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly and know their oral work.
- Read aloud/read daily

Parents/Guardians should:

- 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. Have all books and materials to hand.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account the child's age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from television or other distractions
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, and writing/colouring equipment, login details for SeeSaw
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher if homework is too difficult or taking too long.
- Sign the homework sheet to show that homework has been checked.
- Listen to your children reading

Teachers should:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- All teachers should prepare a homework sheet weekly as children may not be able to take down their own homework.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- Differentiate, if necessary, for children with particular difficulties.

How often do teachers monitor Homework?

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However, due to different circumstances such as large classes, it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework may be checked less often. 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 as it promotes responsibility and allows children to assess their own work and sometimes the work of their peers.

Homework that is sent in to the teacher digitally on Seesaw, is monitored and checked by the class teacher. Feedback may be given to the students on Seesaw.

What happens when Homework is not done?

When homework is not completed, the child must do the homework that evening along with the current day's homework. If homework is not completed regularly, the teacher contacts parents with a view to 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. This usually creates a mutual understanding and resolves the matter. At all times, parents will be kept in touch with these matters. Where exceptional circumstances prevent the completion of homework, please forward an explanatory note to the teacher.

Remember!

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong as this defeats the whole purpose of homework. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Roles/responsibilities

All members of the school community, including teacher, parents/guardians and pupils have a responsibility to implement the above policy.

The policy was reviewed by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Áine on 5th October 2023.

Signed Brenda Kelly
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 5:10.23