

***Scoil Bhréanainn
Portmagee
Co. Kerry***



Homework Policy

Homework and Learning

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Scoil Bhréanainn we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It allows pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can involve parents and family in the pupils work, to their mutual benefit.
- It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
- It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school and in later life.

It enables the teacher:

- To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.
- To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.
- To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.
- To seek extra resources to support these pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge.

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupils progress and development as they move through the school.

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of the tasks may be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences, while other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Reading practice is a priority for all children.

Role of the Parent/Guardian

Parents have an important role in:

- Provide a comfortable distraction-free space
- Encouraging the child in their work
- Observing their work
- Listening to the child reading and discussing the contents
- Looking over completed work and signing homework journal

It is important that parents/guardians help the child with their homework in the most useful way.

Parents should make sure that the child makes an honest effort to do the work without huge assistance. If the child has difficulty the parents will guide. If the parent has given the child a reasonable amount of time and they still cannot complete the task, the parent might be best advised by writing a note informing the teacher of the child's difficulties. Homework should not be an occasion of stress or tension within the family.

Role of child

- To write their homework down diligently in class
- To tick the items off their list in their homework journal when they are completed
- To do homework to the best of their ability
- Have homework neatly presented with good handwriting
- To have all the necessary items for the following school day packed up after homework is complete

Role of teacher

- To set suitable homework to the class level
- To have it connected to the current topic being covered
- To explain it clearly to children
- To provide feedback to students
- To monitor pupil progress
- To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved

Practical Suggestions for Parents

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subject areas from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently in so far as possible. Resist over-helping or completing homework for children.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. Have homework journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Make sure that table is clear, in a quiet place free of TV, computer, playstation, etc
- Monitor how homework is being done and that concentration is being maintained.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Check that homework is done and only then sign the homework diary
- Check that all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, dictionary for school the next day.
- Communicate any difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal.
- 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 teacher, as soon as possible. Do not wait for Parent Teacher meetings.

- Set suitable times for doing homework after school and allow a reasonable amount of time (see guidelines below)

General Guidelines for Time Spent on Homework

It is important that neither the child nor the parent finds homework a traumatic experience. Homework is allocated Monday to Thursday. It is not given on Fridays.

- Each child works at a different pace however Infants homework should generally take between 10 – 15 minutes and Sixth class should never take more than an 60 minutes.

These times are guidelines; some children may complete work in less time. However, confer with class teacher if homework is consistently taking more time than this.

Items for Homework

- Reading, spellings, tables are allocated every night. It is important that the child reads daily at home. Parents are expected to sign the child's Reading Record every night.
- Written work may include Maths, English, Gaeilge, SESE, etc
- Memory work may include spellings, tables, poetry, songs, prayers, Irish phrases, scéalta beag, etc.
- Pupils earn 'stamps' for effort, good behaviour, good participation. Ten stamps can be redeemed for a homework pass. These are a much sought after and valued item! Homework passes will be frozen for a period of time, at the discretion of the teacher, if required.
- If a child however, forgets or does not complete homework, then they sign a journal on teachers desk. If this occurs regularly, the parents will be contacted on the issue.

The Homework Policy is pertinent to the day to day running of the school. Therefore, it will be discussed and reviewed regularly.

This policy was discussed and updated by the whole staff and ratified at Board of Management Meeting 19 June 2017.

Signed: *Denis Couruane*

