



Homework Policy

Homework Policy

The Board of Management of Kilmurry NS 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 liaising with teachers.

Homework provides the children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practising the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. The children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability – no more, no less.

Aims:

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

- promote the use of homework to consolidate learning and work being done at school.
- promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all teachers and class levels.
- keep parents in touch and involved in their child's / children's education.
- develop and encourage the habit of independent study.
- enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence.
- enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable.
- further develop links between home and school.

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 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. Teachers will also differentiate homework as appropriate for pupils with additional needs.

Expectations of Pupils:

It is expected that pupils, when deemed able will:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Return their homework on time.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- Bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete if homework has not been completed.

Sanctions:

If a child has not completed all their homework, a note should be provided by their parent, otherwise sanctions will apply. When implementing this policy, there must be leeway. A teacher will always use his/her discretion when implementing a sanction, taking due regard for issues surrounding the matter, the regularity of such an occurrence etc.

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 the homework when it is completed.
- Try to allow your child to work independently as they should be able to complete most of their homework with minimal support.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- When possible, help your child relate homework assignments to everyday life and skills.
- Please let your child's class teacher know if homework needs to be differentiated.

Parents/Guardians are asked to:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all the books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Diary open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, considering the child's age, the need for playtime, relaxation, and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Sign the homework diary (1st to 6th class) each night checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, Homework Diary, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, if needed for the next school day.

Homework Content:

Usually, homework 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 will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, research 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.

Learning Support:

Learning Support teachers will have a special programme of work for those children needing additional support. This programme can be arranged with parents, if necessary, to suit each child's individual needs.

Time Allocation:

Different pupils will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent can vary from day to day and from one end of the school year to another. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that is important. The following are guidelines for time spent on homework.

Junior & Senior Infant classes:	20 Minutes. Parents are encouraged to talk to their children and to read to them frequently. They are asked to encourage the children to 'talk about and read the pictures in story books'. Word recognition as well as written activities will also be given.
First & Second Classes:	20 - 30 minutes
Third & Fourth Classes	30 - 45 minutes
Fifth & Sixth Classes	50 - 80 minutes

The above are guidelines and as each child differs in their capabilities, the completion of homework will differ from individual to individual. If any child regularly exceeds these time limits, and if the parent/guardian feels that this is not due to bad work habits, the problem should be discussed with the class teacher.

Homework Diary:

Pupils from 1st Class to 6th Class have a homework diary. The class teacher writes the homework on the whiteboard and allows time for the pupils to copy it into their homework diaries. Parents are expected to sign the diary when all tasks are completed. Homework diaries will be checked by the teacher daily insofar as possible. However, in the senior classes, they may be checked every second day or once a week.

How often is homework given?

- In Kilmurry N.S. homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Homework may be given on Fridays at the discretion of the class teacher.
- In senior classes if homework has been neglected during the week some project work may be undertaken at weekends.
- Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion or achievement.

- Class teachers will not assign homework or schoolwork to children while on holidays during the official school year.
- Homework will not be sent home to children who are absent from school due to illness, unless requested in writing by a parent/ guardian.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally, teachers check homework daily. However, with multi- classes and large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's Homework Diary every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, 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 self-esteem.

What happens when homework is not done?

When homework is not regularly done 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)/guardians and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Ratification & Communication

This Policy will be communicated to all members of the Board of Management including parents' nominees on the Board.

This School Homework Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Kilmurry National School at a meeting on the **13th of February 2012**.

It was reviewed again on the **30th November 2016, 10th April 2019**

It was reviewed again on the: **29th April 2024**

Signed: *Denis Collins*

Date: *29th April 2024*

Chairperson of Board of Management