

## **SCOIL ÉANNA HOMEWORK POLICY**

At Scoil Éanna we believe homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and lifelong learning. It is an essential 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. In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. Younger children, however, will obviously need more support than older children. Homework is normally based on what has been taught in class.

### **Parents'/Guardians' role**

Children need to know that their parents think homework is important. If they know their parents care, children have a good reason to complete assignments and turn them in on time. Homework can bring together parents, children and teachers in a common effort to improve children's learning. Helping your child with homework is an opportunity to improve your child's chances of doing well in school and life. By helping your child with homework, you can help him/her learn important lessons about discipline and responsibility. You are in a unique position to help your child make connections between school work and the 'real world' and thereby bring meaning and fun to your child's homework experience.

**Homework should be enjoyable and should promote learning as an enjoyable experience.**

### **How Parents/Guardians can help:**

- 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. The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Monitor how long their child is spending at homework. Set clear but realistic starting and finishing times to keep children focused and to avoid homework 'dragging on'.
- Provide a suitable work surface and a quiet place, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Reading and "learning" homework are as important as written work.
- Ensure you read with/to their children regularly, in a relaxed atmosphere where the emphasis is on enjoyment.
- Sign the homework diary checking that all homework is complete.
- Encourage your child to check that they have all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal.

### How often is homework given?

In Scoil Éanna, homework is usually given from Monday to Thursday. Friday is homework free with certain exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week, without explanation from parents
- In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends
- Children are encouraged to bring library books home to read for enjoyment at all times, but especially at the weekends

### 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 may 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:

|  |                  |  |                      |
|--|------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>Infants</b>                             | Up to 20 minutes | <b>1<sup>st</sup> &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup></b> | 20 to 30 minutes     |
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup> &amp; 4<sup>th</sup></b> | 30 to 45 minutes | <b>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup></b> | 45 minutes to 1 hour |

### Pupils should

- Enter homework accurately at school in their homework diary.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

### Teachers' Role

The teachers will set appropriate homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students. They will monitor and differentiate homework to cater for all pupils. Teachers will regularly evaluate the homework they set to ensure that it is of benefit to the children.

### What happens when Homework is not done?

Parents should send a note, in the homework diary, to the class teacher explaining why their child has been unable to complete their homework.

When homework is not done regularly or without explanation the teacher will contact parents with a view to discussing and 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.