



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 and is prepared in class by the teacher taking into account the differing levels of pupils. 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. Usually, homework contains a balance between reading, learning, oral and written tasks. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading, oral and learning is as important as written work. Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work and pieces to be 'learned by heart'. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

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

Exceptional times

- In early September pupils will have a 'settling in period' and full homework may not begin for 1-2 weeks.
- In December the focus of homework will move to learning, reading and oral tasks.
- In February well-being homework only during Well-Being Week
- In June, the emphasis is put on active/wellbeing homework.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the teacher/principal children may be given a 'No Homework Pass' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special event or effort.

Parents'/Guardians' Role

Children need to know that their parents think homework is important. Encourage a positive attitude from an early age. Homework can bring together parents, children and teachers in a common effort to improve children's learning. By helping your child with homework, you can help them learn important lessons about discipline and responsibility.

Teachers' Role

The teachers will set appropriate homework, review completed work and provide feedback to pupils. They will monitor and differentiate homework to cater for the needs of all pupils. Teachers will regularly evaluate the homework they set to ensure that it is of benefit to the children. Teachers will continually monitor homework diaries, as they act as a means of communication between teacher and parent. Pupils themselves under the direction of the teacher may correct some items of homework. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Pupils Role

- Enter homework accurately in their homework diary (1st-6th class) – support offered by teacher/SNA.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.



Guidelines for Parents

How much time should be spent on 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 only:

Infants	Up to 20 minutes	1 st & 2 nd	20 to 30 minutes
3 rd & 4 th	30 to 45 minutes	5 th & 6 th	45 minutes to 1 hour

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.
- Homework shouldn't be left until morning time before school.

How much help should parents give?

- Encourage your child to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. In some circumstances SEN pupils may require a second set of books at home.
- The homework diary should be open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Encourage your child to work independently as far as possible.
- Agree a suitable time for homework, taking account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, parents should help the child to overcome difficulties with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- Set clear but realistic starting and finishing times to keep your child focused and to avoid homework 'dragging on'.
- Provide a suitable work surface and a quiet place, free from distractions, interruptions, T.V. and other devices
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Reading, oral and "learning" homework is as important as written work. It is imperative that these tasks are completed every night as they support and advance literacy and numeracy skills.
- Ensure you read with/to your child regularly, in a relaxed atmosphere where the emphasis is on enjoyment.

When should parents communicate with the teacher about homework?

Please send a note to your child's class teacher or speak to them at a suitable time:

- When your child cannot complete homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot complete homework because they do not understand some aspect.
- If the time spent doing homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.
- If homework is causing stress and anxiety for your child.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Check and sign the homework diary **daily** (1st-6th class) checking that all homework is complete.
- The pupil journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.



What happens when Homework is not done?

- Parents should send a note, in the homework diary or a message via Aladdin, to the class teacher explaining why their child has been unable to complete homework.
- When homework is not done regularly or without explanation the teacher will contact parents with a view to discussing and resolving the situation and a pupil may be asked to complete homework tasks during a portion of their break time.
- 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.

Roles and Responsibilities/Implementation

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy especially pupils, parents and teaching staff. This policy will be implemented upon ratification.

Success Criteria

Feedback from pupils, parents and teachers.

Ratification/Communication

This policy was ratified and adopted by the Board of Management on 06/02/2024. The policy is available for parents on the school website and by request in the school office. The ratified policy was communicated to all staff and available on the school drive.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended in 3 years or sooner if required.

Signed: *Joseph M. Gault*

Chairperson Board of Management

 Diane Murphy

Principal

Date: 06/02/2024

