

Kilmaley National School Homework Policy

Introduction

The staff came together to review this policy in conjunction with the Board of Management.

Rationale and Relationship to School Ethos

Kilmaley National School seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their work. Homework reinforces the student's learning, establishes good learning skills, and develops studying skills, while also being a valuable home-school link.

Why Give Homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and to develop a work ethic.
- Homework provides an opportunity to practice work already done and some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- To assist children in reaching their potential.
- To encourage children to organise their own work and time, as well as developing independence.

What is the Content of Homework?

- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart," drawing / colouring, collecting information / items and finishing work started in class.
- Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.
- Homework for children attending SET will be regulated and monitored in accordance with their abilities and skills. SET will liaise with class teacher and, or parent / guardian re child's homework.

How often is homework given?

Junior Infants to Fourth Class

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Setting homework on a Friday for the weekend is at the teacher's discretion.

Fifth and Sixth Class

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

All Classes

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "Homework Off" as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion. Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not attempted or completed homework, nor made a suitable effort or presented untidy work. Weekend homework is optional for any parent / guardian who wish to catch up on work. All classes are encouraged to engage in additional library reading during the weekend. If a child is absent for a period of time and is capable of doing homework, the parents/guardians can liaise with the class teacher.

Incomplete Homework

Occasions can arise for many genuine reasons that homework can not be completed or is only partially completed. Parents/guardians need to write a note to the class teacher on this occasion.

Where a child has presented incomplete, unsatisfactory or untidy homework, without a note from their parents/guardians the following will apply:

- The teacher and child will discuss the homework.
- The child is given the opportunity to complete the homework during break-time, the following night and or during the weekend.
- If the homework was learning work for a test, the child may be given the opportunity to learn the work at break time or at home and to retake the test again.
- The class teacher may liaise with the principal or deputy principal when appropriate re incomplete homework and parents/guardians may be contacted if deemed necessary.
- If deemed appropriate additional homework will be given.

How Long Should Homework Take?

The amount of homework proposed, as well as the level of difficulty, will vary with the capability and aptitude of the pupil. Different pupils will complete the same homework in different time lengths. Time spent can vary from day to day and from one end of the year to another. Please note that library reading is assigned weekly and is in addition to the homework guide time.

The following is an approximate guideline:

Junior Infants: An average of 20 minutes

Senior Infants: An average of 20 minutes

First Class: An average of 30 minutes
Second Class: An average of 30 minutes
Third Class: An average of 45 minutes
Fourth Class: An average of 45 minutes
Fifth Class: An average of 60 minutes
Sixth Class: An average of 60 minutes

Homework Journal

Pupils from 1st to 6th class have a homework journal. Homework is generally assigned at the end of the lesson. In junior classes the children take down their homework for the evening from the board. Parents are expected to sign the journal when all tasks are complete. Teachers will regularly check homework journals.

How Can Parents/Guardians Help?

- Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor the homework process and to try to ensure that all homework is complete to the best of their child's ability.
- Parents/guardians can help their child with their homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework, away from distractions and interruptions, including television and devices.
- Parents/guardians should help his/her child ensure that homework is completed neatly and of a standard that helps his/her child reach his/her potential.
- In junior and middle classes, parents/guardians are encouraged to assist their child with his/her homework. As the child progresses to senior classes, it is envisaged that he/she develops more independence and the parents/guardians role becomes increasingly supervisory and supportive.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with the teacher where difficulties arise with homework over a short period.
- Parental/guardian interest and positive affirmation is to be encouraged as it motivates the child to work to the best of his/her ability. 'Mol an óige agus tiocfidh sí!'

Role of Teachers

- The teacher will regularly assign homework.
- Teachers may differentiate homework assigned within class.
- Teachers will regularly monitor homework.
- Some items of homework and classwork may be checked by children themselves with teacher guidance.
- This can form part of the learning process for the children. Every effort will be made to set homework appropriate to the child's ability.

- Teachers will communicate and liaise with parents / guardians about homework at parent teacher meetings, school reports, etc.

Pupils/Students

- The pupils (1st to 6th class) are responsible for writing homework in their homework journal and taking home all the necessary books, copies and equipment necessary to complete the homework.
- Pupils are expected to do homework to the best of their ability.
- Pupils can be encouraged to work through their homework and tick each item of work when completed.
- Pupils are encouraged to communicate directly with the teacher in relation to their homework, if they had a difficulty, where they have received additional homework, or if they wish to receive more challenging homework.

Implementation and Review of Homework Policy

The principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for its review.