

# ***Scoil Náisiúnta an Chuileannaigh***

## ***Homework Policy***

### **Rationale**

It was felt that the school needed a framework policy which would state precisely the guidelines under which homework is assigned and completed. Parents, staff and especially pupils would gain from such a policy. It would ensure uniformity of approach and consistency throughout the school.

### **Relationship to school ethos**

Pupils need to assume responsibility for their own learning. Homework is seen as a means towards ensuring that end. Completing homework helps pupils towards self-discipline and a sense of pride in their work

### **Why give homework?**

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and home.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To encourage pupils to take responsibility for their own learning
- To prepare pupils of the senior classes for the transition to post primary education

### **1) How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.
- ◆ In senior classes however some project work may be undertaken at weekends
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Some teachers may also use a "Free Homework Pass" as a reward system which can then be redeemed at the discretion of the individual child.
- In the last two weeks of the school year very little home work is given.

### **2) What is the content of homework?**

- Ideally homework will contain 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 may regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Parents/Guardians can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

### 3) **How much (time) homework?**

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Because of the fact that in any given class there are children of varying abilities different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will 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:**

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 50 Minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour 30min.

These times are average guidelines only, no child, regardless of class, should spend excessive time at homework. Only a parent can assess what is excessive for their own child. Where a child is unable to complete assigned homework a brief note written in the child’s homework journal will suffice.

#### **4) How much help should parents give?**

- Parents/Guardians should try to help their children with homework by:
    - ◆ providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
    - ◆ to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children
  - Children should be able to do written homework by themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
  - If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents/guardians should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- “ Shared Reading “ is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable experience for both parent and child. If it’s not enjoyable, shared reading defeats its purpose.

#### **5) How often should parents/guardians monitor homework?**

- Parents/guardians should check and sign a child’s homework journal every evening. For Junior Infants where there is much greater contact between parents and teacher and where junior infants are usually given a weekly work schedule on Monday of each week then signing once a week will suffice.
- The pupil’s journal is an important record of the child’s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child’s teacher should be put in the homework journal.

#### **6) How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child’s homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- 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.

**7) When should parents/guardians communicate with the teachers about homework?**

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.
- A brief note in the homework journal will suffice.

**8) When should homework be done?**

- Each family situation is different. 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 should never be left until Late evening or morning time before school.

**Remember**

If homework is a stressful experience between parent/guardian 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 class teacher.

This policy will be reviewed on an ongoing basis to take into account any changes in school circumstances

***Policy Approval / Ratification***

**This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Cullina National School on**

**DATE: 13/11/2013**

**Signed: Griffith John Griffiths  
Chairperson Board of Management**

**DATE: 13/11/2013**

**Signed: Máire Bn Uí Chroinín  
Principal Cullina National School**