



Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí

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R.C.N. 20118990 - Roll No. 18046A

HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

- 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 develop a work ethic;
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity;
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

Frequency

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and on occasion on Fridays:
 - ✓ if homework has been neglected during the week;
 - ✓ in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends;
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion;
- Homework passes may be used as a reward as part of our Behaviour Management System;
- Extra homework may be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

Content

- 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 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;
- 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.

Duration

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. 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 |
| 1 st & 2 nd | Up to 30 minutes |
| 3 rd & 4 th | Up to 45 minutes |
| 5 th & 6 th | Up to 1 hour |

Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday.

Parental Support

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - ✓ providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework;
 - ✓ preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children;

- Children should do written homework themselves. Parents should only help when the child has difficulty;
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem;
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense. It is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it's not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

Parental Monitoring

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening;
- 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 (additional pages available at the end of the journal);
- Please check that your child records the homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed;
- Letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please regularly check your child's journal for such notes.

Teacher Monitoring

- 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 classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Communication

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances;
- When your child cannot do homework because he cannot understand some aspect of the assignment;
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

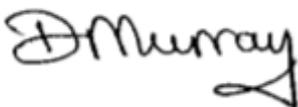
Homework Time

- 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 should never be left until morning time before school.

Remember: If homework is a stressful experience for parent and/or child, this leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Ratification and Review

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on the date below and communicated to parents thereafter. It is applicable from the date below and subject to regular review by the Board of Management in consultation with the patron of the school, the Parent Association and teaching staff. Revised copies/updates of the policy are available on the school website and issued in hard copy to parent(s)/guardian(s) upon request.



Signed:

Declan Murray (Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 13th May 2019