

Homework Policy

Scoil Mochua



Introductory Statement

This homework policy was formulated having first consulted Parents/Guardians, Teachers and Pupils. Feedback was sought via staff meetings and surveys of pupils, parents and teachers, and was focused on discussions in relation to current homework practices and how they can be improved. This policy attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved.

Rationale

Following an extensive survey of parents, teachers and pupils, the majority of respondents agreed that a **reasonable** amount of **meaningful** homework is beneficial to our pupils. It can enhance their learning, and promote valuable skills, e.g. organisational skills, independent learning, perseverance, communication.

Our aim is to promote a consistent approach to homework, to clarify expectations and responsibilities and to respond to frequently asked questions. We endeavour to make homework a meaningful and valuable learning experience for children.

Why give homework?

- To reinforce and consolidate what a child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between school and home and encourage parental involvement in their child's education.
- To foster independence, self-reliance and responsibility for life-long learning.
- To inspire a love of reading and to encourage daily reading.

What is the purpose of homework at each level?

The purpose of homework differs at various class levels.

- At infant level, homework is needed to lay foundations in vital literacy and numeracy skills. Children at this age require daily support with their homework.
- In the middle classes of the school (1st class- 4th class), homework provides consolidation of learning that has happened in school and acts as a home/school link. Parents need to monitor homework and provide some support when necessary.
- In the senior end of the school (5th class- 6th class), homework is mostly independent work to enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence, both of which are required for secondary education and beyond.

How often is homework given?

Children are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. As children progress through the school, they will experience:

- Daily homework: given each night, due the following day.
- Weekly homework: children are given homework on a Monday and told what day each piece of homework is due. This option is more often used in the senior end of the school to develop independent learning skills.

How much time should be spent on homework?

The time spent on homework will vary from child to child and indeed from day to day. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

The following are guidelines only. There may be times of the year when more time is required, e.g. project work, and similarly there may be times of the year when no homework is assigned, e.g. Well-being Week.

Parents are encouraged to contact class teachers directly if they are concerned about the length of time being spent on completing homework.

| Approximate time allocations for homework: | |
|---|---------------|
| Junior Infants | Up to 15 mins |
| Senior Infants | Up to 15 mins |
| First Class | Up to 20 mins |
| Second Class | Up to 20 mins |
| Third Class | Up to 30 mins |
| Fourth Class | Up to 30 mins |
| Fifth Class | Up to 40 mins |
| Sixth Class | Up to 40 mins |

How can I, as a parent, help my child with homework?

The table below outlines the responsibilities of parents, pupils and teachers regarding homework:

| Parent's responsibilities | Child's responsibilities |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Encourage a positive attitude towards homework from an early age.● Establish a set routine and time for homework.● Ideally, provide a quiet space for children to complete homework.● Inform the teacher if the child is having difficulties with homework.● Inform the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.● Monitor completion of homework and sign homework journal:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ each night (1st - 5th)○ once a week (6th) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maintain a positive attitude towards homework.● Ask for clarification from the teacher and/ or parent if needed.● Complete homework to the best of his/her ability.● Organise and take home correct books / copies / equipment needed for homework. |
| Teacher's responsibilities | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Set homework that is meaningful, age appropriate and linked to the curriculum.● Explain homework clearly.● Differentiate homework where appropriate.● Correct homework and provide meaningful feedback.● Monitor the homework journal regularly.● Ensure a balance of writing, learning and reading homework.● Vary homework throughout the year to maintain interest levels. | |

How will I know what is expected of my child each school year?

Class teachers will communicate with parents each September to explain class routines, rules, expectations and procedures regarding homework. This will enable school and home to work together to ensure that the children have a positive learning experience in school. Generally, from 1st Class upwards homework will be written in the homework journal. In the infant classes, children do not have a homework journal, therefore their homework will be given in their designated homework folder.

Will there be occasions when homework may change throughout the year?

Homework may vary and change format on certain occasions during the year. Such occasions might include: Active School Week, Wellbeing Week, the Readathon etc.

Project work may also be given during the school year which may replace regular homework.

Will homework be assigned when a student is on holiday?

Teachers will not provide homework for children who go on holidays during the school year. We appreciate the value of a family holiday, but cannot support children missing school during term time.

When children are absent due to illness, are they expected to keep or catch up with homework?

Children are not expected to do homework while they are absent due to illness. Neither are they expected to catch up with homework when they return to school.

Criteria for success

We believe that our policy is successful if homework is meaningful, focused and beneficial to the children. Homework is a valuable link between school and home. We value the relationship between home and school and are firm believers that when teachers and parents work together, this benefits the children in our school both academically and emotionally.

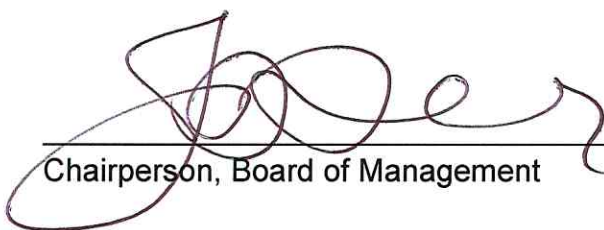
Scoil Mochua fully supports the National Parents Council and the IPPN when they refer to the partnership between home and school in their publication “*Supporting Each Other*”:

“Where effective partnership exists between home and school, the benefits are clear:

- Children learn more, behave better and are happier at school
- Teachers are more effective when they are supported by parents”

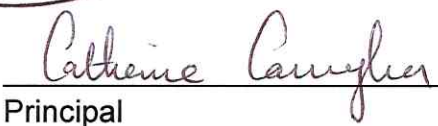
Review

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure that it remains relevant.



Chairperson, Board of Management

25/9/2023
Date



Principal

25/9/2023
Date