

Scoil Mhuire Naofa

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Homework Policy

“Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability, no more, no less.”

Introductory Statement

This policy was formulated by the whole staff on 1st November 2004 and reviewed in March 2019

Relationship to School Ethos

Scoil Mhuire Naofa seeks to enable each child to develop their potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments

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 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.

Guidelines

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

There are two exceptions:

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 acknowledgment of some special occasion

Please note extra homework may be sometime be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

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 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 to promote fluency and encouraging learning by heart to improve working memory.

How much time for homework?

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	Up to 20 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 45 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 45 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent 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 so an individualised homework plan can be established. An individualised homework plan may also be developed for pupils with exemption from Irish or those with Special Educational needs, or others as advised by class teacher.

How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Establishing a set time everyday for homework to be completed.
- o Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- o To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and 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/Library reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- 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 his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed. Parents can see what has been assigned by class teacher on the Aladdin Connect App
- If homework is not completed an explanatory note should be written in the journal to class teacher.