

Scoil Mhuire Naofa

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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.”*

### 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
- To develop digital competencies according to the School Digital Learning Plan
- 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 sometimes 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.
- 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 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 contact 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 engage with SeeSaw daily
- If homework is not completed an explanatory note should be sent to the class teacher.

### **SeeSaw**

- SeeSaw is an e-portfolio for each child culminating in a sample of the pupil’s work from a range of curricular areas.
- It is also used as a digital platform for the uploading of homework assignments
- Every family will have access to a SeeSaw account for each of their children

- Seesaw is not for sending messages to the class teacher. The teacher email can be used for this. Seesaw is only for pupils' academic work
- As part of our Digital Learning Plan, children will be taught how to upload their work in a variety of ways (pictures, written pieces, videos, voice recordings etc.) to SeeSaw and will regularly be requested to do so as part of homework to practice digital competencies.