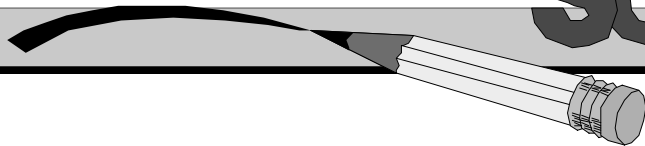
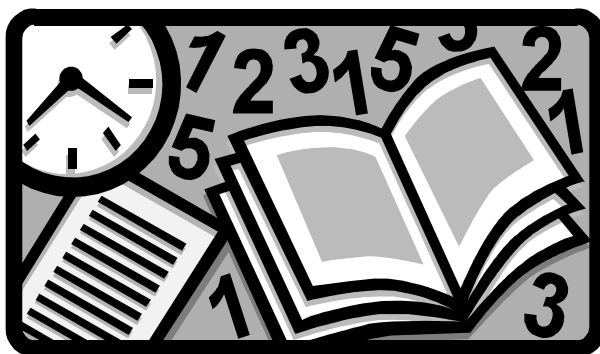


GET READY FOR SCHOOL



**School Policy
on
Homework**



St. Aidan's N.S., Clonroche.



Why give homework?

1. To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
2. To provide a link between teacher and parent.
3. To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
4. 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 class teacher. However, sometimes, with senior classes, some work is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
5. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability - no more, no less.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not Fridays. There are two exceptions:

1. If homework has been neglected during the week.
2. In senior classes some project work is undertaken at the weekends.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a special treat or to acknowledge a special occasion e.g. "Student of the Week" may entitle a child to a night off written homework.

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading, learning and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework 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.

How much (time) 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 year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of the homework that matters.

The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 Mins.
Rang 1	Up to 30 Mins.
Rang 2	Up to 30 Mins.
Rang 3	Up to 45 Mins.
Rang 4	Up to 45 Mins.
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

Reminder:

Each child will have two homework copies. Normally there is no homework given at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday.

Children who attend the resource teacher, learning support teacher or R.T.T. will receive extra homework in English/Maths to reinforce work done in class.

In assigning homework, pupils' ability will be taken into consideration.

Parental Involvement in Homework

- Parents should help their child with homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do it, by preventing interruptions or distractions.
- Parents should check, sign and log time in a child's homework notebook each evening.
- Parents should provide assistance if the child experiences difficulty; they should listen to learned aspects of homework.
- The pupil's homework 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 the class teacher should be put in the homework journal.
- Parents should check that their child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Notes to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Parents should check their child's journal for such notes on a regular basis.
- Where a child is experiencing difficulty, the parents should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- If the parents have a particular area of concern themselves, it will be dealt with at the parents' meeting in September (when the policy will be distributed and explained). Parents will also have an opportunity to discuss the problem at the Parent/Teacher meetings or can make an appointment to see the teacher privately.

Non-Completion of Homework

- If a pupil has been unable to complete a homework assignment or doesn't do it at all, a note of excusal or explanation should be written in the child's journal and signed by the parent.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to see that the homework is completed satisfactorily. In the event that a child regularly fails to do or complete homework, a record will be kept in the journal and parents will be called in.
- Homework not done at night will be undertaken during part of break time, the following night or at the weekend.

Correction of Homework

Homework will be corrected by the class teacher or by a pupil under the guidance of the teacher - this can be a useful part of the learning process for children. Homework will be corrected on a daily basis.

Success Criteria

When this policy is implemented through the whole school we expect:

1. Improved results in the various subject areas.
2. Better communication between home and school.
3. Pupil/Parent accountability.
4. Good preparation for secondary school.
5. Good discipline for children to establish good homework practices.
6. Parental feedback.
7. There will be no ambiguity re. homework from a teacher's point of view.
8. Substitute teachers will know the situation re. homework in the school.
9. There should be a reduction in non-completion of homework.

When should parents communicate with the teacher about homework?

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

When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders etc. Ideally homework should be done soon after school when the 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 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.