

Gaelscoil Eoghain Uí Thuairisc

Homework Policy

Educational research shows that a child`s learning greatly improves when the parents are involved in the learning process. When a child sees his/ her parent`s involvement s/he understands the importance and value of learning and usually progresses better than if their parents were not involved.

It is the policy of this school that homework is given to each class on a regular basis and that it is corrected by the relevant teacher.

- Homework is given to Junior Infants from November onwards.

A. Why is homework given?

1. To revise and reinforce work done during the day.
2. To provide a link between home and school and to encourage parental involvement in the education of their children.
3. To develop thinking skills of pupils.
4. To assess pupils` understanding of work done in class.
5. To foster good homework practices in preparation for secondary school.
6. To afford the pupil opportunities to practise work already done.
7. To afford opportunities for pupil creativity.

B. How often is homework given?

1. Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
2. Homework is not given on Fridays with certain exceptions.
 - (i) If homework has been neglected during the week without satisfactory reason or not done to a satisfactory standard.
 - (ii) Project work and preparatory work may be given from time to time in middle and senior classes.

Sometimes, at the discretion of the Class Teacher or the Principal, children are given homework off as recognition of good behaviour or of some special occasion/ visitor to the school.

C. Homework Content:

Homework usually contains a selection of reading, writing and learning tasks. Content varies from day to day but it should be noted that homework involving reading and learning is just as important as written homework.

1. Homework will regularly contain reading, writing, spellings, tables, learning by heart, collecting information, finishing work started in class, as well as drawing and colouring.
2. Matching, number work and other mathematical work, penmanship/ written work, word boxes/ reading and colouring are examples of homework given in Infant Classes.
3. Children often feel that reading and learning by heart is not `real homework`. Parents can play a very important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring that this homework is done.

D. Duration of Homework:

The following are guidelines for time spent on homework in the various classes. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time, depending on their work capabilities. Time spent on homework will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year.

General Guidelines:

- Junior and Senior Infants – c. 20 minutes
- First and Second Class – c. 20 – 30 minutes
- Third and Fourth Class – c.45 minutes
- Fifth and Sixth Class – c.60 minutes

Pupils should

- (a) Ensure homework is taken down accurately in the homework diary every day
- (b) Ensure they take home all relevant books and copies
- (c) Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability
- (d) Present written work neatly and on time

E. How much help should parents give?

Parents can help their children through the following.

- (1) Arrange a suitable place and time for homework to be done.
- (2) Ensure that there are no distractions eg. Television , music and even other children who may interrupt the work.

(3) Encourage children to work as independently as possible and to resist `over helping`.

(4) Where a child has difficulties with the homework given, the parent should provide extra examples and explanation but should not do the work for the child. The parent should write a note to or contact the class teacher to explain the problem.

(5) Parents should use the teaching methods used in school, especially in the area of mathematics. If a parent doesn't understand the teaching method used, it is best to leave the work undone as opposed to confusing the child by using a different method.

F. How often should parents monitor homework?

1. Parents should look at the child's homework each day and sign the homework diary.
2. Parents of Junior Infants should sign the worksheet each day.

G. How often do teachers monitor homework?

Teachers monitor homework on a daily basis.

Various methods of correcting homework are used depending on content and the age of the children

For Example:

- Teacher correction
 - Class correction
 - Correction in pairs or in groups
 - Class discussion
1. Homework and class work may at times be corrected by the children themselves under the direction of the teacher – this promotes responsibility and self esteem in the children.
 2. Teachers will at various times direct their correcting to specific aspects of the child's work eg grammar, spellings. Not every mistake in a child's work will generally be corrected.

G. What happens when homework is not done?

1. When homework is not done without a satisfactory reason or if it is done in an untidy manner or done without due effort, the child will be asked to finish/ correct / re-do the work that night or at the weekend.

2. When homework is not done on a regular basis the teacher will inform the parents by putting a note in the homework diary. The teacher will keep an account of all such notes.

3. If the situation does not improve the matter is then brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

H. When should parents contact a teacher with regard to homework?

(a) When the child is unable to do or complete the homework due to difficulties with the work

(b) When parents are worried about the child's work/ progress

(c) When the child is unable to do the homework due to family circumstances/ difficulties

(4) At the parent / teacher meetings