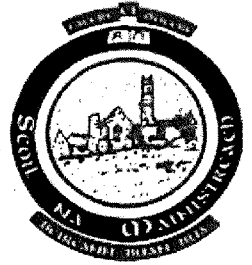


Scoil na Mainistreach Quin Dangan

Quin
Co Clare
V95 P659

Telephone: 065 6825785
e-mail: quinschool@eircom.net
Website: www.scoilnamainistreach.net



HOMWORK POLICY

Introductory Statement

This original homework policy was ratified in 2005 by the Board of Management. The policy review was conducted in consultation with all school partners in May 2016.

Rationale

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and lifelong learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on his/her own to the best of his/her ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practise what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

The Aims of homework:

- To consolidate work being done at school.
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work.
- To develop and encourage the habit of independent study.

Role of Pupils:

- To enter homework accurately in homework diary or folder.
- To ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- To complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- To present written work neatly.

Role of Parents:

Parents are encouraged to:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Help and encourage the child but not to do the homework for him/her. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand.
- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Supervise children's homework, checking it and signing the homework journal on completion.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Sign the homework journal on weeknights indicating that the homework has been supervised and completed.
- Forward a note to the teachers if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher if needs be. If you find that your child is spending too long on his/her homework or does not understand some aspect of it, ask them to stop and send a note to the class teacher explaining the difficulties.
- Check that the child has all the necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day. Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

Role of Teachers:

- Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done – not as an exercise in isolation.
- Homework should not be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.
- Homework must be consistent – a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.
- In the event of a parent not wishing their child to participate in homework activities, a letter must be forwarded to the Board of Management expressing this wish and must be kept on school files.

Teachers will:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to pupils and parents.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- Differentiate homework for students with special needs, as appropriate.
- The Special Education Team will liaise with the class teacher in relation to homework for children with special needs.

Monitoring of Homework

Teachers will usually check homework and journals on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility, self-assessment and self-esteem.

Usually homework contains 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 can contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

Children in the infant classes will receive their homework in a homework folder. This homework folder will be used to communicate homework seeing as children will not receive homework journals until First class. These folders will contain readers and activity pages for homework which the teacher will update regularly.

Duration of 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 of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following times are guidelines on the approximate time that teachers expect the **average** child in each class to spend at homework:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| Junior Infants | 10-15 minutes |
| Senior Infants | 15 – 25 minutes |
| First and Second | No more than 30 minutes |
| Third and Fourth | 30 – 45 minutes |
| Fifth Class | 45 minutes – 1 hour |
| Sixth class | 1 hour – 1 hour 30 minutes (max) |

If time spent on homework deviates sharply from the recommended times above the parent/guardian should set up an appointment with the class teacher to discuss this issue.

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends with certain expectations:

- Children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.
- If homework has been neglected during the week.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or principal, as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion, children are given 'homework off'.

What happens when homework is not done?

When homework is not completed, the child may be directed to do the homework that evening along with the current day's homework. This sanction may be imposed, removed or reduced, at the discretion of the teacher, depending on individual circumstances. If homework is not completed regularly, the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is 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.

Remember: If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose of homework. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher to discuss the matter.

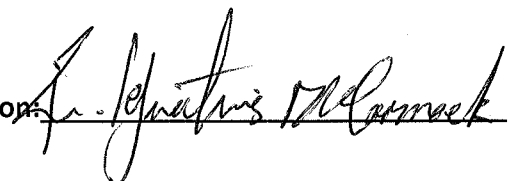
Implementation and Review:

This policy will be implemented from date of ratification. The policy will be monitored regularly to check that all staff is consistently implementing. This policy was reviewed on 22nd November 2012

Approval / Ratification of the Homework Policy

This policy will be reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil na Mainistreach Quin Dangan

Chairperson:

 Date: 8-June-2016

This policy will be uploaded to www.scoilnamainistreachquin.net

Spellings

Test every Friday

Test to be signed by parents over the weekend

| Class | English Spellings | English Prog. | Irish Spellings. | Irish Prog. | Tables |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| Senior Inf. | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 1 st | 10 3 sentences dictation | Jolly Phonics Grammar handbook | N/A | | Adding 1 – 12 Tested 5 on a Friday |
| 2 nd | 8 | Jolly Phonics Grammar handbook | 8 | | Plus and minus 1 – 12 |
| 3 rd | 12 | Graphiophonics | 8 | Class Theme | 1 set per week |
| 4 th | 16 | Graphiophonics | 12 | Class Theme | 3 sets of tables |
| 5 th | 18 | Graphiophonics | 10 | Class theme and Irish verbs | 2 sets of tables per week |
| 6 th | 20 | Graphiophonics | 10 +alt | Class theme | Randomly |

Homework

| Class | Policy states no of minutes |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Junior Inf. | 10-15 |
| Senior Inf. | 15-20 |
| 1 st | 20-30 |
| 2 nd | 20-30 |
| 3 rd | 30-45 |
| 4 th | 45-60 |
| 5 th | 45-90 |
| 6 th | 45-90 |

Homework Headings

| Class | Homework headings |
|-------------------------|--|
| Junior Infants | 3 items Trick words, reading, written activity, shared reader twice a week |
| Senior Infants | 3 items word lists based on phonics, reading, written activity, Grow In Love once a week. |
| 1st | 4 items maths worksheet, English writing, paired reader, spellings, tables, class reader, dolch words. |
| 2nd | 4 items Group reader, maths worksheet, English/Gaeilge writing, paired reader, spellings, tables, class reader, AR, mathletics |
| 3rd | 5 items Maths worksheet, English/Gaeilge writing, class reader / AR, spellings, tables |
| 4th | 5 items Maths, English, Gaeilge writing, spellings, AR, sese written |
| 5th | 6 items maths, English Gaeilge SESE Written, spelling,AR |
| 6th | 6 items maths, English Gaeilge, spellings, tables, AR, creative writing/Atlas Hunt |
| Learning Support | Toe by toe, snip, projects and word packs |
| Resource | Toe by toe, snip, readers and differentiated work |