



# Homework Policy

Drumbaragh National School,

Drumbaragh, Kells, Co. Meath. Roll No. 10801Q

Parents frequently query homework, from the amounts given, to its usefulness, to the rationale behind giving pupils homework. The purpose of this policy is to identify the school's rationale for giving homework along with guidelines for appropriate homework amounts for your child. In this school homework is considered a very important part of a child's education and personal development as it helps children primarily to:

- 1) Develop a habit of study and work
- 2) Discipline themselves to make choices
- 3) Learn how to organize and use free time
- 4) Learn to work independently \_

## **Rationale for Homework**

- To benefit pupil learning by reinforcing work done in class.
- To develop study skills.
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes.
- To strengthen links between home and school, as parents notice difficulties, which may have been missed in school.
- To develop independent working skills.
- To raise awareness of difficulties of the children, as the work is completed independently, with no input from other children.

It is a matter of school policy that teachers decide on the amount of homework which they consider appropriate. It is not possible to give exactly the same amount of homework every night and the amount of time spent doing homework varies child to child due to various factors (writing speed, concentration levels, etc.). Below is a rough guideline of time necessary to complete homework:

- First & Second Class: Reading, Tables, Spellings, along with written homework in math and English every night. No homework on Fridays. Homework should take on average twenty to thirty minutes.
- Third & Fourth Class: Reading, Tables, English/Irish Spellings, along with written homework in math and English every night. No homework on Fridays. Homework should take on average forty to sixty minutes.

- Fifth & Sixth Class: A pupil in 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class should spend on average between sixty and ninety minutes on homework per night. Homework in these classes will combine learning, reading, and writing activities across a variety of curriculum areas, research-based tasks for projects and other specific assignments may be included.

Homework is not assigned on Friday evening, but it is of great importance that children read for pleasure each day over the weekend. This allows the child to maintain and improve reading fluency and comprehension levels in the long term.

Weekly Class Homework Records are made available for all classes on Aladdin Connect. All assigned homework for classes First to Sixth should be written in the child's journal and should be signed by a parent/guardian each night on completion of same, with reading records signed nightly.

If for some reason, homework cannot be completed, a signed note stating this must be sent to the class teacher. Should a child regularly fail to do his/her homework the class teacher will bring the matter to the parent/guardians' attention by a written note in the child's journal.

It is expected that pupils complete all homework. Children with learning difficulties will be given differentiated homework tasks. Homework given will be corrected by the class teacher in so far as it is possible, self corrected or in certain circumstances, corrected by another pupil.

### **Guidelines for Parents/ Guardians**

- Set aside a quiet regular time, sitting at a table. Make sure that electronic devices such as televisions, laptops, mobile phones, radios etc are not part of the homework routine.
- Where possible, make sure that homework is completed as soon after school as possible.
- Encourage your child to keep copies neat and tidy and to complete work to the best of their ability, using best handwriting.
- As your child gets older, he/ she will work more independently, but be available for assistance with problems.
- Try not to get irritated with your child. Frustration will only lead to conflict and have a negative effect.
- If your child has persistent problems, let the teacher know through a quick chat, electronic note or note in the homework journal.
- If your child is unable to complete work for any reason, please communicate this with the class teacher or send an electronic note into school.
- If you find the homework is taking longer than the recommended time, let the teacher know.

### **Homework for Absent Children**

Following a request from a parent/guardian for a teacher to prepare work for a child who is absent for a period of more than one week, the following procedures apply:

- If the child is absent due to illness, the class teacher will endeavour to provide some work in order to ensure that the child will not be too far behind class work on his/her return
- If the absence is due to holidays or other similar events, then the advice is that the child should read during the time off.

At all times it is school policy to encourage children to attend school every day where possible, in this way all children will receive an equal opportunity to learn.

### **Ratification and Review**

This Homework Policy was reviewed, updated, and ratified by the Board of Management on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021.