

Homework Policy

This document seeks to outline the policy in Scoil Mhuire na mBráithre, CBS Primary Tralee regarding homework by addressing some commonly asked questions in this regard.

Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a further link between home and school.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- It is a useful tool for assessing children's understanding of topics taught in class and it assesses their presentation skills.
- Develop a sense of responsibility and independence to promote lifelong learning.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. It provides an opportunity to consolidate learning and work being done in school.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday but usually not on Fridays
- There are some exceptions:
These exceptions may include
 - if homework has been neglected during the week
 - in senior classes some project or preparatory work is undertaken at weekends
 - in middle and senior classes some practical work is undertaken.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given "homework off" as a reward for good behaviour or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- If a child has not completed homework, made a suitable effort, or presented untidy work, it may be completed during morning break-time or the following evening.
- If a child persistently fails to complete homework parents will be informed by a note home in the homework journal or via Microsoft Teams. (Specific arrangements regarding homework can be organised, with full consultation between parents and teachers, where required in certain circumstances. In circumstances where the home environment may not be conducive to completing homework or where a child is struggling to complete, even with adaptations by parent and teacher, a

child may be facilitated to complete some work in class in the morning or afternoon. This will be in agreement with parents and with support of SET or SNA, if appropriate. This should be reviewed termly.')

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.
- Infant classes homework activities may include: phonics, blending, reading, writing and maths activities.
- Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important encouraging role in listening to reading and items to be learned thus ensuring this work is done well.

How much time for homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Differences in ability will be taken into account-different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Children experiencing difficulties in English reading and spellings may not be given Irish spellings. 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 & Senior Infants 10 minutes
Rang 1&2 20 to 30 minutes
Rang 3 &4 45 minutes
Rang 5 & 61 hour

How much help should parents/guardians give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Preventing interruptions or distractions, such as: television, phones, electronic devices etc or other children.
- Children should complete 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 doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Parents should adhere to the methods used in school. This is particularly so in Mathematics. If the child is using a method that is foreign to the parent. It would be important to set aside that piece of work and inform the class teacher of the difficulty encountered rather than impose another method.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it is not an enjoyable experience for the child and parent, we would recommend taking a break and trying at another time.

How often should parents/guardians monitor homework?

- Parents/guardians should check the child's homework every evening.
- In junior classes parents should sign the child's reading sheet and homework copy.
- In middle and senior standards the homework journal should be signed by a parent/guardian.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- CBS Primary also uses Microsoft Teams to communicate with parents. Notes regarding homework between parents and teachers should be put in the homework journal or communicated using Teams. All other notes re absences/sicknesses etc. which may contain private information can be put in separate note section in the school journal or also communicated through Teams.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Other notes to parents will be placed in the current day of the homework journal. Teams messages may also be used for this. Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis and please remain signed into Teams with notifications turned on.

How often do teachers/guardians monitor homework?

- Teachers check homework daily where possible
- A variety of methods are used to correct homework depending on the

content and the age of the children:

- Teacher correction
- Class correction
- Class discussion
- Children exchange work for correction
- Children write answers e.g., spellings, tables
- 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.

When should parents/guardians communicate with the teachers about homework?

- At parent/teacher meetings.
- When your child cannot complete homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot complete homework because she/he has encountered some difficulty.

If you child is attending an after-schools/homework club?

- In these settings children might not get all homework assignments completed at times, and therefore parents should play a role in checking their children's homework regularly.

When should homework be done?

- CBS Primary recognises that each family situation is different – parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be completed soon after school while the topics covered in school may be fresh in the child's memory.
- If necessary, it should be supervised by an adult.

Review

This plan will be reviewed again in 2025.

Ratification

This school plan was formulated by the principal and staff and approved by the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire na mBraithre.

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Anne O'Callaghan
15/04/2024.