



Scoil an Chlochair *Convent Primary School*

Homework Policy

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1.0 Introduction

The Board of Management and Staff of the Convent Primary School recognise that homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. This policy was formulated as a result of a collaborative approach between the Pupils, Parents/Guardians and Staff. It was informed from feedback from focus groups and a number of surveys in December 2023. This policy is underpinned by our school ethos and mission statement.

2.0 Aims

The aims of this policy are as follows:

- To enable pupils to consolidate, revise and reinforce work that is done at school.
- To help develop and encourage the pupils to become independent learners.
- To enable parents/guardians to stay in touch and involved in their child's / children's education, to see how their child is progressing in school and to be aware of what material is being covered.
- To develop and maintain links between home and school.
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all teachers and class levels.

3.0 Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to standardise the setting of homework in order that pupils, parents/guardians and teachers can work together to maximise the pupil's learning.

4.0 Overview

Parents/Guardians can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

All pupils in mainstream classes and some pupils in our special classes receive homework.

Homework will comprise of a balance between oral, reading and written work. It is, for the most part, a reinforcement of work done in class.

Provision/differentiation is made for pupils with Special Educational Needs. Where pupils are receiving additional support from a member of the S.E.T. team, the class teacher and Learning Support/Resource/Language Support teacher will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.

Homework is set from Monday to Thursday inclusive; pupils are not normally given homework over the weekend. Sometimes at the discretion of the Class teacher or Principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat, a prize or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a pupil has not completed their homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work. Please refer to the Code of Behaviour.

5.0 Guidelines for Time to be Spent on Homework

Parents/Guardians should note that the following guidelines are approximate.

- 1st and 2nd class: Up to 30 minutes
- 3rd and 4th class: Up to 40 minutes
- 5th and 6th class: Up to 60 minutes

6.0 Guidelines 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. It should only be given when 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. Teachers will also differentiate homework as appropriate for pupils with additional needs. Where a pupil receives homework from their SET teacher, the class teacher and SET will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.
- Homework should start by the end of the first full week at the start of a new school year. It is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends. Homework should end one week before the Christmas holidays and two weeks before the summer holidays.
- The allotted time that teachers are to expect the average child in each class to spend at homework are outlined above. Homework should not exceed the times indicated above. To monitor if time spent on homework is in keeping with expectations for each class level, teachers should ask pupils to record the time their homework takes them each day for one week in early October and again in February.
- Teachers will write homework on a class whiteboard for pupils to copy into their homework diaries and in addition, they will upload homework on Microsoft Teams on a daily basis. There will be a printout of homework for First Class.

7.0 Responsibilities of Pupils

- Pupils are expected to write down/record their homework correctly in their homework diary and to ensure that they have brought home the correct books and materials in order to complete it. Pupils who have SEN will be assisted as appropriate.
- Pupils should appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- Pupils are expected to return their homework on time and to complete and present it to the best of their ability. If a pupil has not completed all of their homework, a note should be provided by their parent/guardian, otherwise sanctions will apply. However, when implementing this policy, there must be latitude. A teacher will always use his/her discretion when implementing a sanction, taking due regard for issues surrounding the matter, the regularity of such an occurrence etc.

8.0 Homework 'Tips' for Parents and Guardians

- Agree on a set time for homework with your child.
- Be consistent – discuss, monitor and check homework every night where possible.
- Make sure that your child is sitting comfortably at a table while working.
- Homework should ideally be done in a place that is free from distractions and should be in a place where there is no access to media such as televisions, mobile phones or iPad.
- Homework time should include time for oral as well as written work. Oral work, particularly in the early stages of your child's school life, can consolidate that which is learned in both Irish, English and Mathematics.
- Your child should be encouraged to complete their homework, working as independently as possible.
- Try to avoid confrontations with your child over homework. Encouragement can be more helpful.
- Your child will make mistakes. Encourage them to find and correct their own mistakes. Children must be able to accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process and it is important that they can go back and try a different method or approach.
- If your child is having genuine difficulty, make contact with your child's teacher explaining the specific difficulty if possible. Acknowledge and respect your child's efforts, honesty and enthusiasm in doing their homework.

9.0 Roles & Responsibilities:

All Staff, under the guidance of the Principal participate in, and contribute to, the implementation of an effective and equitable Homework Policy.

10.0 Success Criteria:

The school evaluates the success of this Policy through;

- Feedback, as appropriate, from Staff members, pupils, parents and DES personnel.
- Monitoring the appropriateness of homework for each class level and individual child's ability.
- Satisfactory presentation and completion of homework by pupils.

11.0 Implementation and Review

11.1 Implementation

This plan will be implemented in April 2024.

11.2 Review

The plan will be monitored and evaluated at regular Staff meetings. A review will be conducted based on the success criteria outlined.

Timeframe

- Review Date: This plan will be reviewed in Term 3 in the 2026/2027 School Year.

12.0. Communication and Ratification

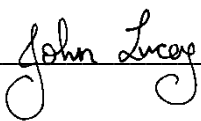
12.1 Communication

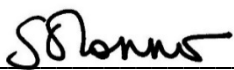
This policy is made available as part of the whole school plan. The whole plan is also available in the school office for viewing. This policy will be communicated to the school community by the following means:

- Board of Management/Other Staff members via hardcopy in office, email and SharePoint
- Parents via hardcopy in School Development Plan in the Office

12.2 Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in 9th April 2024

Signed  Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed  Principal/Secretary, Board of Management