



HOLY TRINITY  
ENNISKILLEN

# **HOMEWORK POLICY**

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Introduction**

- At Holy Trinity Primary School all staff recognise that pupils who have spent a busy structured day at school need time to relax and unwind at the end of the afternoon.
- We are also mindful of the need to encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities, for example, Swimming, football, youth clubs, Music Lessons and after school activities offered by the school or in partnership with the school e.g. sport, music computers etc.
- We believe that homework activities should be introduced gently to avoid resentment, friction and conflict.
- Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school or as an opportunity to open up new learning.
- We all recognize the importance of providing positive feedback to the children, being generous in our praise within the context of our expectations of each pupil's achievement and to follow up an aspect of school work by visiting different sources e.g. local library, Internet, etc.
- Parents and carers should give their active support to ensure that work done at home is completed conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.
- Children attending peripatetic music lessons are expected to practice in their own time.

### **Inclusion and Diversity**

Inclusion and diversity are key principles in our school as it is made up of pupils from many different backgrounds, nationalities and experiences, each who have a wide range of skills, abilities, and interests. Individuality and difference is recognised and indeed celebrated in the school particularly through 'individual improvement'.

'Inclusion is about the quality of children's experience; how they are helped to learn, achieve and participate fully in the life of the school'.

(Removing Barriers to Achievement 2004)

It is key in this policy that all in Holy Trinity feel special for whom they are and that they feel free from any form of injustice or prejudice. It is essential that all pupils feel cared for and safe as equal members of the school community. All pupils have the right to full entitlement and access to high quality education within a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. Each pupil no matter how they differ from others should feel valued and are offered curricular, pastoral and extra-curricular opportunities that allow pupils to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills so ensuring progress, success and self-confidence.

## **1. THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK**

The school regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- Develop an effective partnership between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school.
- Consolidate and reinforce learning, skills and understanding, taught in school;
- Encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self discipline needed to study on their own, and to prepare them for the requirements of Post primary school.

## **2. THE AIMS OF THE POLICY**

Through this policy we aim to:

- ensure consistency of approach throughout the school;
- ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility;
- ensure that children, parents know what to expect;

- improve the quality of learning experience offered to pupils;
- provide opportunities for parents, pupils and school to work in partnership;

### 3. CURRENT PRACTICE

At the beginning of the academic year and regularly there after, each class teacher explains to pupils the requirements for homework in that particular class. Parents are also informed about expectations during parent teacher meetings.

### 4. TYPE OF HOMEWORK & THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

Class	Time Spent	Days	Areas Covered
P1	Not more than 30 minutes per night	4	Literacy and Numeracy will be the main focus for homework. In addition, other topics or RE work may be included as part of homework. Take away homework activities will span a number of nights
P2		4	
P3		4	
P4		4	
P5	Not more than 45 minutes Per night	4	
P6		4	
P7	No more than 1 hour per night	4	

The above table is merely a guide for each class. Homework may vary to take account of Religious Education, seasonal work or project work. If your child is exceeding the recommended time for homework and is getting stressed, stop the homework and put a note in the child's homework diary to explain why they were unable to finish it.

Foundation/KS1/ KS2

- P1/2 Children are screened for literacy and numeracy at the end of each term and parents are then sent home homework activities to be completed as a result at the end of each term.
- P3-7 Mental Arithmetic/Tables, spelling & reading will be set Monday-Thursday. One piece of "Take away Homework" will be set for each week.

**INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN TAKE DIFFERENT AMOUNTS OF TIME TO COMPLETE TASKS. TIME TAKEN MAY THEREFORE VARY.**

#### **5. HOMEWORK NOT COMPLETED:**

If your child is unable to cope with the amount of homework given the school strongly recommends that parents, contact the class teacher to discuss the issue and agree a way forward.

If a child is unable to complete work within the set time, due to illness, special occasion or learning needs, please inform the teacher by signing the homework diary with an explanation.

If homework is not completed without an explanation the teacher will ask the child to complete the homework for the following day. If the problem persists the teacher will write a note to the parent in the Homework Diary. If the problem is not resolved the teacher will telephone the parent to discuss the issue. If the issue is still not resolved the teacher will refer the matter to the Principal/Vice Principal

#### **6. HOMEWORK DIARY**

The school uses a homework diary for all pupils from P3-7 in which pupils record tasks. Parents from P4-7 are encouraged to sign the homework diary each night, but **must sign the Homework Diary each Thursday**, by doing so they are accepting that they are happy with their child's effort at homework that night.

Parents may use the diary to alert teachers to non-completion of tasks or difficulty in completing tasks.

## **7. THE ROLE OF PARENTS AND CARERS IN SUPPORTING PUPILS WITH HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES**

At Holy Trinity we recognize that parents have a key role to play in supporting pupils with their homework.

Parents of children from Primary 1 to Primary 3 are asked to sign the children's actual homework each night while parents of children from Primary 4 to Primary 7 sign the child's Homework Diary each Thursday to verify that they have checked the quality of their child's work and are happy with their child's effort.

## **8. FEEDBACK**

The school recognizes the importance of providing feedback to pupils, parents and carers on how well homework tasks have been tackled and the knowledge, skills and understanding that are being developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback ranging from an appropriate comment of praise, appreciation or area for improvement.

## **9. INFORMING AND CONSULTING PARENTS ABOUT THE HOMEWORK POLICY**

The school website, newsletters, and parent meetings will be used to inform parents about the school's homework policy and to obtain feedback. The policy will be issued to parents at the beginning of the 2019/20 academic year.

## **10. OTHER CHILDHOOD ACTIVITIES**

We value the time children spend with their families, therefore, the school does not believe that homework should get in the way of pupils' participation in other enriching activities such as sports, hobbies and visits. As far as practically

possible, the school will work with parents and carers to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to participate in such activities. Our Takeaway Homework Programme facilitates this family time

## **11. REVIEWING THE POLICY**

This policy was revised in light of a parent questionnaire on homework undertaken in 2017.

Taking cognisance of all responses we have made a number of key revisions to our policy, practice and procedures. These include;

- Not setting weekend homework
- Revision of the Homework Diary

The principal will lead the staff in a review of the Homework Policy every two years last reviewed August 2019

Every MONTH you should attempt **at least one 'EXTRA HOT'** task!  
AR/class reader, Mental Arithmetic and spellings & tables  
 are to be completed each night Monday to Thursday  
Monday- Takeaway homework- choose one task, to be completed by Thursday

Holy Trinity Primary School

## Take Away Homework!

All homework due in on THURSDAYS.  
 Complete Takeaway homework in homework books unless completing art/craft activity.

Week1 Literacy	Week 2 Maths	Week 3 WAU	Week 4 RE/Creative
Activity 1	Activity 1	Activity 1	Activity 1
Activity 2	Activity 2	Activity 2	Activity 2
Activity 3	Activity 3	Activity 3	Activity 3
Activity 4	Activity 4	Activity 4	Activity 4



