

EDENDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL : HOMEWORK POLICY

This document details the aims and practices of Edenderry Primary School in relation to the homework set for pupils.

Homework is seen as valuable and necessary for the following reasons . . .

- **it consolidates and extends work done in the classroom.**
- **it strengthens the partnership between home and school.**
- **it provides a means by which parents can monitor their children's progress.**
- **it encourages self-discipline and good work habits in the child.**

HOMEWORK PRINCIPLES

Setting homework is bound by three general principles:

1. Work to be done at home is appropriate to the age and ability of the pupil.

2. Parents must accept the responsibility of ensuring homework is properly completed by the child in a diligent manner.

3. Homework is marked and monitored by the teacher in accordance with other related school policies.

It is only through acceptance of these principles that homework can be perceived as a meaningful exercise.

USING ICT AND HOMEWORKS

The staff of Edenderry Primary School actively promote the use of computers in the completion of homework and project works when appropriate and as directed by class teacher.

The Range and Quantity of Homework

Written homework, generally, will be from Monday to Thursday. The nature and amount of work to be completed at home will depend on the age group of the class.

While it is difficult to be precise for each year group the following indicates what is regarded as reasonable for the average child each night.

- **Foundation and Key Stage One (P1 - 4)**

Time spent on homework will vary from 20 minutes in Primary 1 to 35 minutes in Primary 4.

In the early years homework will be mainly numeracy and literacy based with practical activities. Across Foundation Stage this is likely to include learning new words, consolidating class activities and writing practice. Children will be engaged in a reading activity, together with the learning of spellings and mental maths. At this level regular written tasks will be set.

- **Key Stage Two (P5 - 7)**

At this level homework will range from approximately 40 – 45 minutes for Primary 5 pupils to an average of 1 hour each night for Primary 7 pupils.

Reading, spellings and tables will continue and written homeworks will increase so that by Primary 7 there is one such task each day.

- **Dealing with inconsistent completion of Homework**

In situations in which a child fails to return homework, complete a homework or produces a homework which is not consistent with their class performances or level of ability the following actions will be applied:

1. In absence of homework the pupil will be given one days grace to hand in homework.
Pupils will be given an opportunity to complete an incomplete homework or repeat a poorly completed homework.
2. Pupil will be placed in breacktime detention if there is not a positive response to point one. Pupil's name will be recorded in Detention Booklet.
3. If there is a frequency of incomplete homeworks a letter will be sent to parent from school (Appendix 2).
4. If a situation arises in which a second or third letter needs to be issued from school parents will receive a copy of letter in Appendix 3 and be asked to meet teacher and principal to discuss the matter.

- **Library Reading**

Throughout the school children will have access to library books. This will help consolidate reading, increase knowledge and, hopefully, encourage and stimulate a love for books. Paired reading is encouraged for parents of pupils in P1 & 2 and can be used with reluctant readers in more senior classes.

In all classes library reading will be monitored through class discussion and in upper KS1 and KS2 this will take the form of written activities.

- **Pupils with specific needs**

- Children enrolled in the Learning Support Centres will receive homework as deemed appropriate by the class teacher and in line with IEPs.
- Pupils who receive additional help from the English and/or Mathematics Support Teacher may well have specific tasks set by these teachers.
- In certain instances the setting of homework for individual pupils may take account of particular pastoral needs or medical conditions.

Throughout the school pupils may be asked to “find out” or collect pictures or items for further work in class, and, from time to time, Key Stage 2 classes will be given extended homeworks such as projects or investigations.

Homework : Some points for parents

The quality of a child’s homework rests firmly with parents and some clear responsibilities can be identified –

1. **Ensure that your child’s homework diary is a working booklet and is referred to each night to confirm homework.**
2. **Make sure your child has space (preferably on a table) to work, and peace and quiet to help concentration. Doing a written homework on a knee in front of a loud television or whilst engaged on electronic devices is of no great benefit!**
3. **There are aspects of literacy homework which must be listened to from P1 – P7, e.g. new words, reading, and spellings. Other tasks require checking to ensure neatness and accuracy - e.g. tables, sums, sentences etc. We believe it is vital that parents actively participate in all activities, particularly reading. This will have a significant impact on your child’s development. Class teachers will provide guidance to parents on strategies for the successful completion of tasks.**

4. If, as a parent, you are dissatisfied with your child's written homework, have it repeated but do not tear out or cross out the original effort.
5. Sign the homework. This is a school requirement.

Please note:

- If your child is having particular difficulties do not supply the answers; rather make a note on the page and the teacher will deal with the problem.
- If for any reason your child is unable to complete a homework because of another commitment, missing book, etc., please send a written explanation to the class teacher. In such circumstances the teacher will decide the appropriate course of action.
- Make sure your child uses the computer appropriately at home. Monitor their use of the Internet and ensure that time spent on internet is focused on task in hand.
- Homework may be set as a sanction or conversely not set as a reward.
- Homework will not be set for pupils who are absent from school.

Finally.....

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT THE HELP AND ENCOURAGEMENT A CHILD RECEIVES AT HOME IS THE MAIN DETERMINANT OF A CHILD'S FUTURE SUCCESS. PLEASE, THEREFORE, GIVE YOUR CHILD AS MUCH OF YOUR TIME AS POSSIBLE.

Homework Policy
Appendix 2

Dear _____

It has come to my attention that _____ has not completed or handed in a number of written homeworks over the past number of weeks. As you will be aware homework plays a vital role in reinforcing or developing skills introduced in the classroom during the course of the school day. I would ask you to ensure that time is set aside for the completion of homework on a nightly basis and that you sign written work to indicate to the teacher that you are aware of the work being undertaken at home. Please contact school if this request presents any difficulties.

Homework Policy
Appendix 3

Dear _____

Further to previous correspondence sent to you regarding _____'s failure to complete or hand in a number of homeworks, I am writing to request that you contact the school to arrange a meeting with myself and the class teacher to discuss this matter. As a school we are keen to encourage all our pupils to work to the level of their abilities. It is our belief that the completion of homework plays a vital role in this process allowing you, as a parent, to participate in the education of your child. It is therefore the intention of this meeting to explore the means by which we can support you in your endeavour to assist your child.

Homework Policy
Appendix 4

Dear Parent

Homework

During the course of your Parent Workshop meeting your child's teacher will be making reference to homework procedures and expectations. It is our strongly held belief that parents/grandparents play a vital role in the education of a child. A key element of this role is the supervision of homework.

On behalf of all the class teachers I would ask you to ensure that your child's homework is signed before it is returned to school. This confirms for the teacher that you are aware of the homework and are happy with your son or daughter's efforts.

We would ask that all parents prioritise the practice of reading at home with their child, be that using a "reading" book, a library book, comic or magazine. Time regularly spent in this activity will pay rich dividends as a love of the written word will give your child the skills needed to undertake post primary study and the means to access information for a variety of other purposes. In our opinion time regularly spent reading with your child, listening to your child read or discussing with your child whilst they have read independently is time well spent and will have an immediate impact on their performance in school.

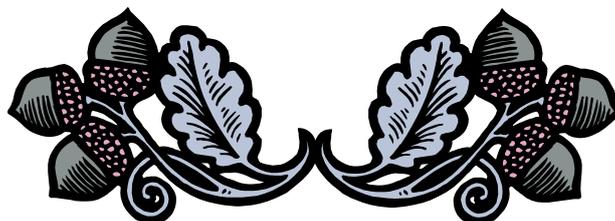
Yours sincerely

STEPHEN DOYLE
Principal

EDENDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL



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