

# TOREAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL



## HOMEWORK POLICY

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At Toreagh Primary School we believe that homework is an important part of the learning process.

#### **Why is homework important?**

- a) The main reason for homework is to assist and improve learning by reinforcing and consolidating the knowledge, skills and understanding gained in the classroom.
- b) Homework fosters the development of positive work habits and helps to increase the children's ability to work independently, improving their organisational and study skills.
- c) Homework encourages children to commit important facts to memory, eg. spellings and tables.
- d) Homework helps to relate class-work to the real world, eg. measuring, weighing, costing, etc.
- e) Homework strengthens links between Home and School by encouraging parental involvement in their children's learning and by raising parents' awareness of topics taught at school.

## **At Toreagh Primary School:**

1. The homework set will relate to and supplement classroom learning and teaching.
2. Homework will be set regularly and all homework will be marked.
3. Homework will be set in accordance with the pupil's ability.
4. At the beginning of each academic year parents will be informed of the homework schedule.
5. When appropriate, homework may be set over weekends and across holiday periods.
6. Additional homework may be assigned for disciplinary purposes.
7. Reading and rote learning will form important elements of each child's homework.
8. It is the pupil's responsibility to ensure learning homework is completed, to complete written homework carefully and that work is submitted on time.
9. We would encourage parents to support the teacher by supervising the completion of homework. Homework should be signed by the parent/guardian.
10. Open communication between teachers and parents is viewed as an integral part of the education process.

## **Failure to Produce Homeworks:**

Homework that is not handed in, or is deemed unsatisfactory, will be completed during the school day or at home on the next evening.

Initially the teacher will communicate with parents of children who are failing to complete homework on a regular basis.

Where this practice continues the matter will be referred to the Principal.

## **Pupil Absences:**

It is important that pupils catch up with any reading or spelling homework they miss due to absence.

If children are off school for a **short period** because of illness then we do not normally send work home, unless requested by the parent.

Where a child is off for a **longer period** of time, but is well enough to do some work, the teacher and parent will agree what should be done, how it will be marked and what support should be given.

Where holidays are taken in school time, homework **will not** be set for this period.

## **Frequency and Duration:**

Pupils will usually have homework each night, - Monday to Thursday.

The amount of time allocated to homework will relate to the capabilities and age of the pupils.

The time denotes a period of sustained, concentrated effort.

As a general rule the following times are viewed as appropriate for each year group.

### **Key Stage 1**

Year 1           Up to 15 minutes per night.

Years 2 & 3    Up to 15 – 20 minutes per night.

Year 4           Up to 30 minutes per night.

### **Key Stage 2**

Years 5 & 6    Up to 40 minutes per night.

Year 7           Up to 60 minutes per night.

Those children opting to sit Transfer tests will be expected to complete extra homework.

During the build-up to school shows and special services/events, homework may be temporarily suspended.

## **The Role of the Principal:**

The Principal shall:

1. Ensure that this Homework Policy is agreed with staff.
2. Ensure that this policy is presented to the Board of Governors for its approval.
3. Make the contents of the policy available to parents and children.
4. Monitor the implementation of the policy throughout the school.

## **Guidelines for Teachers:**

1. Homework will focus on class work.
2. Homework shall be set as per homework schedule.
3. Tasks set are clear, unambiguous and require minimal resources.
4. The level of difficulty will match the ability of the children.
5. All homework will be marked and returned promptly to pupils.
6. Teachers will endeavour to make constructive comments to encourage improvement.
7. Parents will be made aware of recommended times to be spent on homework.
8. Initially, teachers will have the responsibility to communicate with the parents of children who are failing to complete homework assignments.
9. A homework diary (P1 – P7) will be provided to aid communication between home and school.
10. Diary checks will be completed regularly.

### **Responsibilities of Pupils:**

1. Pupils should listen attentively and record homework details carefully in their Homework Diary.
2. Pupils are required to hand in homework on time.
3. Pupils must ensure homework is completed carefully and presented neatly.
4. Pupils are to assume responsibility for obtaining the proper resources and materials required to complete homework.

### **Responsibilities of Parents:**

1. Parents should be familiar with and support the school's Homework Policy.
2. Parents should provide the child with an appropriate time and place to complete the homework.
3. Parents should contact the school in the event of any concerns in respect of homework.
4. Parents should take a positive and active role in the supervision of children when completing homework.
5. Homework should be signed each evening by a parent to state that the work set has been completed to their satisfaction.

The homework diary may also be used to communicate with the teacher.

## Homework Guidance for Parents

Parents are encouraged to provide assistance to their children at home. The following guidance may help in this process:

### **Provide a study area:**

The specific room chosen for study makes little difference. However, the atmosphere in the room is important. The area should afford good lighting, proper seating and sufficient space for materials. Distractions, such as music, phone, TV or other children, should be avoided.

### **Allocate a specific time period:**

Your child should have a specific time period each day for homework. You should establish firm rules against using the phone, watching TV or other activities until homework is completed.

### **Supervise homework:**

Encourage your child to talk about their school work.

Provide assistance with memory drills by calling out words or questions and testing what has been learned (ie.) spellings, tables, science facts.

Help to provide materials and resources, and help with ideas for projects.

We believe children should do some personal reading at home every day. In many cases children will enjoy reading silently. In this case you can ask your child to tell you about what they are reading.

Some children will need your support in hearing them read every night. Class teachers will provide further advice on this as necessary.

Listen to your child reading back to you what they have written.

Check presentation for neatness and accuracy.

Give guidance but PLEASE DO NOT DO THE WORK FOR YOUR CHILD!

### **Be positive:**

Homework assists your child's progress in learning. Try to get your child to understand the value of the homework. Praise the things your child does well, and do not dwell on shortcomings. Remember we learn from our mistakes.

## **Homework Diary:**

Encourage your child to check that homework set is understood and recorded in the diary before coming home.

Homework should be signed each evening to state that the work has been completed satisfactorily.

## **Get the homework habit:**

We hope you will support us regarding homework being completed on time.

Encourage children to look after and return any books they have borrowed.

When your child does not bring work home, find out why. Get your child into the habit of doing homework.

## **Communicate with the Teacher:**

If it appears that your child has too much homework or is having difficulty with homework contact the teacher. This will often solve the problem.

Similarly, we will get in touch with you if we feel there are problems over homework that you could help resolve.

## **Life Outside School:**

Homework should not curtail pupils' involvement in hobbies, clubs and interests. Developing a wide range of extra-curricular activities and, in addition, taking time to relax and reflect are essential to children's growth and development.