



HOMEWORK POLICY

POLICY DATE:	February 2024
PRINCIPAL'S SIGNATURE:	
CHAIRPERSON, Board of Governors, SIGNATURE:	
REVIEW DATE:	February 2026

HOMEWORK POLICY

The setting of homework is considered by teachers, parents/carers and pupils to be an intrinsic part of school life.

As children progress through the school, more will be expected of them in content and in the length of time spent on work at home. We see homework as being a valuable link between home and school, where parents can be involved positively in their child's education.

It encourages self-discipline and independence in children and prepares them for the home study expected at post-primary level.

AIMS:

- to provide opportunities for pupils to consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom;
- to increase a parent's/carer's involvement in the educational development of his/her child;
- to assist with the development of an effective partnership between school and parents;
- to give parents/carers insight into the learning their children are doing in school;
- to foster positive work habits and the skills needed for independent study.

ROLE OF PARENTS/CARERS

If our Homework Policy is to be successful in achieving our aims, then parents/carers must be clear about the ways in which they can support their children.

We will encourage parents/carers to:

- provide a suitable time and place for pupils to do their homework;
- take an interest in the homework being undertaken;
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework;
- always encourage their child to complete the homework to the best of their ability and return it to school on time;
- always praise their child's efforts for completing their homework;
- sign their child's written homework
- supervise their child when they are using the internet for a topic-related activity completed at home.
- communicate with the class teacher if homework is taking too long to complete or the child requires excessive support. This can be done by parents/carers putting an 'H' on written homework to indicate that help has been given.

ROLE OF TEACHERS:

It is vital for the pupils that there is consistency in the approach to setting homework throughout the school and also between the classes in each year group. The following is normally the case when setting homework:

- the same type of work will be set for the whole class, although it may vary in level of difficulty depending on the ability of the child;
- homework will normally be based on work already covered in class or related to work covered in class;
- year groups will work together to ensure a consistency of approach;

Teachers should provide:

- guidance on how homeworks can be completed;
- deadlines for completion of homework;
- support and guidance for parents/carers;

There is an explanation of what homework will be set throughout the school year as part of the school's parent/carer Homework Workshop, held in September of each year. However, the following general guidelines apply to all year groups:

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family.

- Parents/cares should inform their child's teacher if their child is experiencing persistent difficulties with the completion of homework tasks.
- The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework is normally set four nights and week (it may not always be written homework) for all classes and will reflect a child's age and ability.
- Reading, the learning of spellings and mathematical facts/tables/mental arithmetic activities are important elements of all homework set.
- In Primary 2- Primary 7 spellings are set Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday night. The children should revise the week's spellings on a Thursday for a spelling test on a Friday.
- Homework or work will not be provided for pupils if holidays are taken during term time.
- There may be occasions when no homework will be set eg. individual pupil rewards, class reward, or in light of a special event happening.
- Parents/carers will be contacted by the teacher if children are regularly failing to produce homework (see Appendix 1).
- Homework will be marked as soon as possible and in line with the school's '**Marking Policy**'.

THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. Homework **normally** consists of:

- Reading;
- Phonics/spellings;
- Mathematical facts/tables/mental arithmetic activities;
- Written activity (normally Literacy, Numeracy or topic-based)

On occasions a written activity may not be set as the homework may include research activities, preparation for class talks/show and tell, activities on our Seesaw online learning platform etc. Non-written is just as important as written homework.

FOUNDATION STAGE / KEY STAGE 1

The following are examples of the types of homework which may be given:

- Learning letter sounds and individual spellings;
- Learning to read and spell high frequency words;
- Reading – children are encouraged to read each day;
- Literacy and Numeracy activities linked to the developmental stage of the child;
- Activities relating to number bonds, multiplication tables etc;
- Finding out information by talking to an adult;
- Homework may be topic related, for example bringing something into school.

KEY STAGE 2

It is important that pupils should gradually get into the habit of being expected to work at home. They should be encouraged to develop personal study skills which require them to devote regular periods to time studying on their own. By the time pupils reach Primary 7 their homework programme covers a wide range of tasks and curriculum content. This should not only benefit their learning but also assist the transition into the post-primary sector.

The following are examples of the types of homework which may be given:

- Learning more complex spelling patterns and rules;
- Sustained reading – reading book/library book to be taken home and children to be encouraged to read each day
- Writing tasks covering a range of writing styles, eg. report, narrative, playscript, persuasive, explanation, poetry;
- More complex Literacy and Numeracy activities relating to multiplication tables, calculation strategies, shape and space etc;
- Research activities.

GUIDELINES FOR TIMES SPENT ON HOMEWORK

These are approximate times that should be spent on homework for each of the Key Stages in school, but these may vary from child to child.

Foundation Stage: 20-30 minutes

Key Stage 1: 30-40 minutes

Key Stage 2: 40-50 minutes

If homeworks are repeatedly not completed, consequences include:

- a letter home/phone call to parents
- homework would be completed at break, lunch or done over the weekend, signed by parents and returned to school

TILDARG PRIMARY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

I have received and read the school's Homework Policy and will ensure that my child _____ completes their homework each evening and submits it to the teacher on time.

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Date _____

APPENDIX 1 – COMMUNICATION LETTER RE. HOMEWORKS

Pupil's Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Dear Parent/Carer

The setting of homework is considered to be an intrinsic part of school life. It is a vital link between home and school and also provides opportunities for pupils to consolidate what they have learnt in school.

This note is to inform you that your child has not submitted homeworks on a regular basis.

Please ensure your child submits all future homework, signed by a parent/carer. Please contact me to discuss further if you wish, so that we can address any issues.

Yours faithfully,

Class Teacher

I have received the letter regarding my child not submitting homeworks and will ensure any future ones are completed, signed and returned to school.

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____