



Redeemer Boys' National School
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Homework Policy

This Homework Policy was formulated in September 2024 having first consulted Parents/Guardians and Teachers. Feedback was sought via parent and teacher surveys and focussed discussions with teachers in relation to current homework practices, along with new approaches being considered. It was reviewed in Term 1 of the 2025-26 school year.

This document is intended to provide details of the whole school plan for homework in Redeemer Boys' N.S. Our aim is to promote a consistent approach to homework and make expectations clear across all classes. We endeavour to make homework a meaningful and valuable learning experience for children as much as is possible.

How much homework and what will be assigned?



Non-written homework will be assigned weekly across the school year, to be completed Monday – Thursday. **Written homework will only be assigned to senior classes (i.e. Third – Sixth Class), to be completed across the school year Monday - Thursday, excluding the months of SEPTEMBER, DECEMBER and JUNE.** There is flexibility in the weekly schedule for written homework in that pupils may opt to complete their weekly activities in two or three of the four set nights. The surveys clearly showed that this model was very popular with both parents and staff. We have tweaked the blended model that was outlined in the survey and identified three months where NO written homework will be assigned to the senior classes.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children may be given 'Homework Off' as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion. At times, teachers may opt to incentivise children by awarding a 'Homework Pass' for one piece of written work.

Junior and Senior Infants should spend between 5 - 15 minutes at homework. There will be NO WRITTEN HOMEWORK assigned to Infants Classes. Reading and work on Oral Phonics, Sight Words and Number Facts will be given as appropriate. There may be some seasonal activities assigned across the year. Activities will also be assigned via the Mathletics App.

First and Second Class should spend 15 - 30 minutes at homework. There will be NO WRITTEN HOMEWORK assigned to First and Second Class. Reading and work on Sight Words, Words Their Way Spellings, Number Facts and Times Tables will be given as appropriate. There may be some seasonal activities assigned across

the year and preparatory work for First Holy Communion. Activities will also be assigned via the Mathletics App.

Third and Fourth Class should spend 30 - 40 minutes at homework. There will be WRITTEN HOMEWORK assigned to Third and Fourth Class. Reading and Words Their Way Spellings and Times Tables will be given as appropriate. Parents should listen to reading and examine spellings and tables regularly. They should listen to reading and ask questions.

Each pupil will have 2 A4 homework copies (1 & 2) and the books will be rotated weekly. This will allow the teacher to prepare differentiated work and to check the copies. Any work set will be familiar to the boys and it will link to what they are covering or have covered in class. As such, they are expected to do their very best and attempt all work.

Outline of Written Homework for Third and Fourth Class:

- Response Journal three nights a week
- Literacy Task X 1
- Maths Task X 2



Handwriting should be neat and copies should be tidy and well-kept. There may be some seasonal and Religion activities assigned across the year. Activities will also be assigned via the Mathletics App.

Fifth and Sixth Class should spend 45 - 60 minutes at homework. There will be WRITTEN HOMEWORK assigned to Fifth and Sixth Class. Reading and Words Their Way Spellings and Times Tables will be given as appropriate. Parents should encourage a good degree of independence but should continue to listen to reading and to examine spellings and tables regularly. They should listen to reading and ask questions.

Each pupil will have 2 A4 homework copies (1 & 2) and the books will be rotated weekly. This will allow the teacher to prepare differentiated work and to check the copies. Any work set will be familiar to the boys and it will link to what they are covering or have covered in class. As such, they are expected to do their very best and attempt all work.

Outline of Written Homework for Fifth Class:

- Response Journal three nights a week
- Literacy Task X 2
- Maths Task X 3
- Gaeilge Task X 2



Outline of Written Homework for Sixth Class:

- Response Journal three nights a week
- Literacy Task X 3
- Maths Task X 4
- Gaeilge Task X 2

Handwriting should be neat and copies should be tidy and well-kept. There may be some seasonal and Religion activities assigned across the year and there will be preparation work for Confirmation too. Activities will also be assigned via the Mathletics App.

In **Autism Class 1 & 2**, the teachers will follow the above plan for each child and their corresponding class level as far as is appropriate and/or practicable. All homework will be differentiated for each child. When the boys are given homework, it may include a choice board with a range of activities, individual programmes for literacy and numeracy, life skills activities or skill development activities directly related to their IEP.

Please Note: The time allocation is the maximum time a child is to spend on their homework and they should stop when the time limit is reached regardless of the volume expected. While the focus is on quality over quantity, pupils should ensure that homework completed reflects their best efforts. Reading for pleasure is not included in these time guidelines.

What to expect.....

What to expect from parents:

- Parents will be expected to provide a safe and quiet place for children to work.
- Parents will be expected to show an interest and to help.
- Parents should try to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when a child has difficulty. Parents are never expected to do a child's homework and parents are not expected to re-teach the day's lessons.
- Parents should hear reading, practice number facts/times tables and spellings. They should check that written work is tidy and neat, and praise a child's efforts.
- From 3rd-6th parents can use the homework copies (or homework diary if the class teacher has chosen to use one) to keep in touch with the teacher and to write a brief note if there were any difficulties or problems with the work. In this way, the teacher will have a better idea of how the child works independently and can make some important changes to the following week's teaching plan. Parents may also let parents know when a child cannot do homework due to a family circumstance.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense, and it is simply meant to be enjoyable exercise between parent and child. Children often feel that reading is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned by heart ensuring this work is done well.

What to expect from teachers:

- Teachers will be expected to check and mark the written homework and to show an interest in the child's efforts and progress. N.B. self-marking or peer marking may be used under the discretion of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children. Generally, written work will be checked at the end of each week. Reading/Spellings/Tables may be checked daily.
- Teachers should explain to pupils exactly what is required for homework and should help if there is a problem.
- Teachers should expect children to do their best and teachers should use the homework copies/diary as appropriate to keep in touch with parents.



What to expect from pupils:

- Pupils will be expected to do their best at their homework.
- Pupils should make sure they have the right book/s home and they should try to complete homework in the early afternoon.
- Written work should be neat and tidy.
- **Pupils are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.**

Where and When?

- Each family situation is different – one or both parents working, child minders, sporting activities etc. Ideally, homework should be completed soon after school, sitting up at a table and not on the sofa or the bed. Some children, however, need a break before starting homework.
- The TV, the Xbox and the Playstation should be OFF and mobile phones out of sight and/or placed on silent.
- It is usually a good idea to have spare pencils, erasers and colours etc. handy.
- Homework should never be left until the morning time before school.

What happens if pupils DO NOT complete assigned homework?

- **Parents should always send a note in when homework has not been completed, outlining the reason.**
- Non-written homework is assigned across the school year in all classes and the class teachers will run individual initiatives in each class to promote completion of reading homework (Dojo points, raffle tickets etc. as appropriate).
- **From a school perspective, it leads to significant disruption and disengagement when your son does not complete the assigned reading as he not able to fully partake in the reading workshop the following day.**
- For Third-Sixth Class pupils, we have a system in place for responding when homework is not done/is incomplete and no explanatory note has been provided by parents:
 - Each Friday the class teacher will send a text home stating how many pieces of homework were not completed to the parents/guardians of the boys that this applies to.
 - If 3 separate texts are sent, the class teacher will make a phone-call home to discuss the issue.
 - If another 2 texts are sent, the principal will make a phone-call home to discuss things further.

Avoiding Problems

Remember: If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose.

Please talk to your son about the reasons for homework and its importance in creating good habits and life skills that will serve him well as he gets older.

If homework is a stressful experience on a regular basis or there is any reason why homework cannot be done properly, the parent should write a note to the class teacher. If there is an on-going problem of any sort, the parents and the class teacher should meet to resolve it. It may be that less (or different) homework may be necessary. An agreed time limit may need to be set. There is always a way.

The surveys carried out in 2024 indicated that a significant proportion of parents would like the school to organize workshops, especially for Written Maths and the Words Their Way Programme. We thank parents for their input. Going forward, we plan to organize more workshops/classes for parents to attend.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 25th September 2025 and communicated to teachers and parents in Term 1, 2025-26.

Signed: F.Mullen Chairperson, BOM Date: 25/09/25

Signed: M.Murray Principal Date: 25/09/25

