

Homework Policy



Glór na Mara N.S.

Convent Hill

Tramore

Co. Waterford

Introduction

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents/guardians can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers. This policy, a redraft of a 2008 model, attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of *Glór na Mara N.S.* has been formulated by staff with parental input, and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Rationale

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy of the school can be attributed to the following –

- Further strengthening of home-school links
- Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day
- Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework

Relationship to School Ethos

It is the policy of the school to, as far as is possible, identify all the needs of the pupil and put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs.

The school also encourages the active involvement of parents/guardians in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of the policy are –:

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
- To enable the children develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable
- To foster self-discipline and study skills
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
- To further develop links between home and school

Resources

- Homework Diary
- Whiteboard/Interactive whiteboard
- Work sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.
- I.C.T.

Policy Content

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. Homework is normally given at the end of the school day. The following are the allocations for our school –

Junior Infants: - 0 – 15 minutes

Occasionally, child friendly tasks involving word or letter recognition are issued and it is recommended that parents read to and with their children on a regular basis.

Senior Infants: - 0 – 15 minutes

Reading and/or occasional worksheets. The school attempts to maintain a balance between oral, reading and written work. Paired reading is encouraged in infant classes.

Rang a hAon: - 0 – 20 minutes

Rang a Dó: - 0 – 20 minutes

Rang a Trí: - 0 – 30 minutes

Rang a Ceathar: - 0 – 30 minutes

Rang a Cuíg: - 0 – 40 minutes

Rang a Sé: - 0 – 45 minutes

- Homework is generally based on class related work or work already covered in class. The assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of the pupils are also taken into account.
- It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. However this balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. It should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be ‘learned by heart’, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Children often feel that reading and ‘learning by heart’ is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.
- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at weekends unless it has been neglected during the week, or unless exceptional circumstances such as projects or book weeks occur.
- It is not school policy to issue homework as an exercise in isolation. It will in most instances be an integral part of the subject being taught and be consistent.
- The Special Education Teachers will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils. Reading is routinely given.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note.

- All children have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.
- Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self-correcting. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to redo this work. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly.
- Occasionally, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Procedures for Pupils

1. Enter homework accurately in homework diary.
2. Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
3. Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
4. Present written work neatly.

Procedures for Parents/Guardians

A homework information sheet is distributed to parents outlining suggested homework times, homework requirements and procedures.

1. Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
2. Remove distractions – T.V. younger siblings etc.
3. Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
4. Parents should not do the homework for their children.
5. Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary.
6. Check and sign homework diaries.
7. Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
8. As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
9. Discourage morning homework.
10. Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table books etc. available should the need arise.

Evaluation

- In-class corrections
- Checking homework diaries
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Teacher designated tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback from parents and pupils

Roles and responsibilities/Implementation

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils, parents/guardians, teachers and Board of Management.

Ratification/Communication

This policy was presented and ratified by the Board of Management on Thursday, January 31st 2019 and will be posted on the school's website.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed as required.

Ratified by the Board of Management on Thursday, January 31st 2019

Signed: _____
(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: _____