

PRIMROSE HILL NATIONAL SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and lifelong learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays with certain exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week.
- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion or achievement. Exceptions are not made on the child's birthday, etc. Homework Passes may be used by class teachers as part of an incentive reward scheme within their classrooms. Homework Passes should only be used towards written homework, reading and learning homework should be completed as normal.

Homework Content

Usually, homework contains a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Homework will regularly contain, but is not limited to the following:

- reading,
- spellings,
- tables,
- written work (English, Irish and Maths),
- pieces to be 'learned by heart' and other Oral Language based activities,
- drawing/colouring,
- collecting information/items,
- active homework on P.E. days 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.

Duration of Homework

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines:

- Infants 10-20 minutes
- 1st and 2nd Class : 30 to 40 minutes
- 3rd and 4th Class : 40 to 50 minutes

- 5th and 6th Class : 1hour to 1hour 15 minutes

Responsibilities of Pupils

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary or access to Google Classroom.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

Responsibilities of Parents/Guardians

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Journal/ Google Classroom open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time. Homework should be completed to the best of the child's ability.
- Sign the homework diary (1st-6th classes) checking that all homework is complete, when in use in the classroom.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal (when in use in the classroom), a written note to the class teacher or an email to the school office for the attention of the class teacher. (See Communications Policy for further guidance on communicating with teachers).

Responsibilities of Teachers

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

When homework is not done regularly the teacher will contact parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Signed

Signed

Reverend S Neill

C. Flood

Chairperson, Board of Management

School Principal

Issued: February 2008

Updated: February 2019; April 2023