



Scoil Naomh Molaise

Grange, Co. Sligo.

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an integral link between school and home. Parents can monitor their child's progress through regular reference to homework and liaison with teachers. Parents play a vital role in listening to and engaging with their child's homework.

Rationale

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

Aims and Objectives

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

Resources

- Interactive Whiteboard
- Aladdin Connect
- Homework diary (5th & 6th classes)
- Google Classroom (5th & 6th classes)
- Textbooks, worksheets, folders, copies etc.
- Accelerated Reader
- I.T. – World Book, Scoilnet etc.
- Active
- Environmental

Policy Content

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted, self-discipline and self-assessment is developed. Homework is normally assigned at the start of the

week and should be completed for correction in school on Friday. This flexibility in completing the homework takes into account that some evenings may be busier than others in a household.

The following table advises appropriate times that homework might take:

Infants: Less than 15 minutes
First/Second Class: 15-30 minutes
Third/Fourth Class: 30-45 minutes
Fifth/Sixth Class: 45-60 minutes

Homework should not exceed the time suggestions above. Parents/Guardians should contact the class teacher if homework is routinely causing frustration or upset for the child.

Note: Some subjects such as English, Irish, may have more emphasis on oral work. Active homework is promoted and encouraged. Homework is mostly based on class related work. It attempts to keep a balance between reading, writing and learning. Time spent in reading and learning is as important as written work. The different levels of the pupils are taken into account when homework is assigned.

- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at the weekends unless exceptional work like projects is expected.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked and behaved well.
- Reading is routinely given and should be a priority.
- If homework cannot be completed, a written notice should be forwarded to the teacher via Aladdin.
- Parents/Guardians should supervise and check homework regularly.

Procedures for Parents/Guardians

The table outlining rough time guidelines only operates successfully when children are working in a suitable environment.

- Remove distraction – TV, radios, mobile phone etc.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Do not do your child's homework.
- Encourage children to work independently, particularly in older classes.
- Send a note via Aladdin if a problem arises.
- Check and sign homework diary/journal if requested by teacher.
- Shared reading should be an enjoyable experience between parent and child. If it is not enjoyable, contact the class teacher for advice.
- Communicate any concerns regarding homework which occur on a regular basis, with the class teacher.

Evaluation of homework

- In class corrections
- Parent-Teacher meetings
- Class Tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback
- Self-Assessment
- Peer Assessment

Homework and holidays

It is school policy not to allocate or prepare homework for children who are on holiday during school time. We do not assign work for children for their holidays, nor set catch up work for them on their return. It is our policy to discourage pupils from taking holidays during term time. If a child is absent for twenty or more days in the school year, we are obliged to report the absence to TUSLA, Child and Family Agency. Parents/Guardians of children who are sick for an extended period/hospitalised should talk with the class teacher.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 30th January 2025.

This policy will be reviewed on a two-year cycle.

Signed: *Fr Christy McHugh* (Chairperson, BOM)

Signed: *Louise O'Connor* (Principal/Secretary, BOM)

Date: 31.01.25