



Holycross National School HOMEWORK POLICY

Introduction

The school homework policy has been formulated in the light of guidance and suggestions for best practice from the DES, the IPPN, the NPC, the INTO etc. This policy has been drawn up through a collaborative process involving the staff, the Board of Management and the Parents' Association.

Rationale

There are many reasons for having a school policy on homework. The following are the main considerations:

- ❖ Establishing good study habits is part of doing homework and will be beneficial to children. Cohesiveness and consistency of approach are necessary throughout the school.
- ❖ Homework helps to maintain regular communication with parents.
- ❖ Homework helps to keep parents informed about the content of the curriculum. The Primary School curriculum is laid down by the Department of Education and Skills and can be viewed on the website of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment at www.ncca.ie
- ❖ Mutual support between parents and teachers is vital to the success of this policy.

Aims and Objectives

The main aims and objectives of this policy are as follows;

- ❖ To encourage children to work independently at home.
- ❖ To involve parents in children's learning.
- ❖ To raise awareness of the importance and benefits of homework.
- ❖ To ensure that there is a cohesive and consistent approach to the amount and content of homework given.
- ❖ To ensure age-appropriateness of homework throughout the school.

School Ethos

This policy complements the school ethos and mission statement which aims to provide a caring, nurturing environment where children achieve their potential across the broad range of the curriculum and where parental involvement is expressly encouraged.

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- ❖ Roles and Responsibility: All staff have a role to play and responsibility for the implementation of the school's Homework Policy.
- ❖ Parents are required to assist and support this policy by ensuring that all items of homework are completed and handed up. Parents are asked to sign and time homework each night.
- ❖ If a child is unable to complete homework for a legitimate reason, the parent should write a note to this effect in the homework journal.

- ❖ Tailored homework assigned by SET teacher, where applicable
- ❖ Class teachers should correct homework in a timely fashion.
- ❖ Children should write down homework neatly and keep the journal in good condition. Learning support and resource teachers will assign homework through consultation and agreement with class teachers and correct same in a timely fashion.
- ❖ Homework passes are included in the Star of the Week awards and as a general incentive.
- ❖ Homework is not given on Fridays.

Underperforming pupils

While standards in content and completion of homework are generally high amongst the majority of pupils, the staff will take note of pupils whose homework is incomplete or missed on a regular basis. When this occurs the school will contact the parents in one or more of the following ways:

- ❖ Informally between class teacher and parents/ guardians.
- ❖ Via a note in the homework journal.

Consequences

Children may incur sanctions by the class teacher for regularly failing to complete or hand up homework to a satisfactory standard.

Strategies for the promotion of high standards in homework:

Holycross National School promotes good homework habits by:

- ❖ Giving the appropriate amount of homework for children's ability and class level.
- ❖ Ensuring children understand homework tasks before going home.
- ❖ Giving children enough time to take down homework.
- ❖ Giving children advice on how to improve the standard of their work.
- ❖ Taking note of children who regularly struggle with homework.
- ❖ Consulting with and giving parents advice to help children with homework.
- ❖ Identifying issues which may impact on children's ability to complete homework.
- ❖ Providing a variety of tasks across the curriculum in addition to core subjects.

Content

In general, the following timing and content will apply:

1. From October to December children in Junior Infants will have a math exercise each night. They will also be given their sound of the week to practice. From January onwards Junior Infants will also be assigned reading homework. Children in Senior Infants will spend 15 – 20 minutes on homework. They will use SeeSaw at home each day with reading, number and/or written tasks to complete, as and when appropriate.
2. Children in 1st/2nd classes will spend up to 30 minutes on homework. They will complete tasks in English reading, spellings, tables and mathematical concepts taught on a regular basis. Some rote learning will be included.
3. Children in 3rd/4th will spend up to 45 minutes on homework. They will regularly have reading, spelling and written work in English and in their Litriú workbook. They will have oral Irish work also. They will have mental maths tasks as well as tables to learn each night. They will have rote learning and project work at times also.

tasks in preparation for Confirmation to do from time to time. Research along with project work will be given as appropriate.

Children are not obliged to go over the time allotted, provided the parents sign the journal to confirm the time spent on homework.

Success criteria:

Means of assessing the effectiveness of this policy will include:

- Looking at standards of homework
- Parental feedback
- Teacher vigilance and feedback
- Pupil feedback

Implementation:

It is the responsibility of each teacher to carry out the duties required by this policy and to be vigilant and consistent in noting and recording children's performance in this area. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that children have a suitable routine and environment in which to carry out homework and to ensure that children complete homework to the best of their ability. It is the responsibility of each child to write down all items of homework, to bring home books etc needed for homework, to complete all tasks to the best of his/her ability and to hand up or show the work on time.

Review

It will be necessary to review this policy on a regular basis to ensure optimum implementation and to evaluate effectiveness. All policies are drawn up for inclusion in the School Plan in consultation between staff, Board of Management and parents where appropriate. This is in accordance with the relevant legislation: 'A board shall make arrangements for the preparation of a plan and ensure that this plan is regularly reviewed and updated' (Education Act 1998). This plan is a process which is updated, developing and evolving on an ongoing basis.

Ratification and Communication:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: 19/9/24

Signed: [Signature] Chairperson BOM Date: 19/9/24

Date: [Signature] Principal Date: 19/9/24

Review Date:

This policy will be reviewed school year 2025/2026

