



Ballinadee National School

Homework Policy

Homework is regularly given to all classes in order to revise and consolidate work done during the day. It affords parents the opportunity to give some individual attention to their child and to monitor their child's progress.

Rationale

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy 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, as far as possible, to identify all the needs of the pupil and to put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs. The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and to 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 to 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

Duration

The following are general guidelines. They are what we as teachers consider an appropriate time to spend on homework.

Class	Time
Infants	15 minutes
First Class	20 minutes
Second Class	30 minutes
Third Class	35 minutes
Fourth Class	45 minutes
Fifth Class	1 hour
Sixth Class	1 hour

Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays.

Homework is not given on Fridays. There are two exceptions to

this:

- 1). If homework has been neglected during the week or if the homework presented is not satisfactory, the pupil may be asked to complete the unfinished work at the weekend. This will be communicated in writing to the child's parents in the homework journal.
- 2). Children may be asked to undertake some research/project work and the time span given could run over weekends. Friday, Saturday, Sunday could then be used to complete the work.

Policy Content

It is school policy 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.

- From time to time children will be given a night off homework as a treat, reward or to mark a special occasion. This will be at the discretion of the class teacher and in consultation with the Principal.
- Parents should exercise discretion in relation to the times allocated. If you feel that your child has worked to the best of their ability within the time given and they do not have it completed please sign and add a note in the homework diary.
- Occasionally child-friendly tasks are issued and it is recommended that

parents read to and with their children on a regular basis.

- Homework is generally based on class-related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Spelling and the learning of tables are especially important.
- The assigned homework is explained to the children in advance. The different levels of the children are also taken into account.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour, but occasionally children are rewarded with a reduced homework load if they have worked or behaved well.
- The SET (Special Education Teachers) will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils, but only as a reinforcement of class work. This homework has been specially differentiated for each child and should be given priority. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- Homework will not be given in advance of family holidays during term time. Parents/Guardians of children who are sick for an extended period/hospitalized should talk with the class teacher.
- 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.
- Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self-correcting. Parents are advised to supervise assist, correct and check homework nightly. Parental assistance is needed during homework periods.
- All children from 1st to 6th class have a homework diary which parents are required to sign every night. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent. Parent/guardian should still check homework and sign diary if homework is being done in after-school care or alternative childcare setting.
- In general, all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning “by heart”, drawing, collecting information and colouring.

Procedures for Parents

- Provide suitable comfortable facilities
- Remove distractions- T.V., younger siblings etc. It is important that children have a quiet place free from distraction in which to complete homework.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation
- Parents should not do homework for children
- Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary
- Check and sign homework diary every night
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time. This can be done by recording the time taken in the homework diaries.
- As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible
- Discourage morning homework
- Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table- books etc. available should the need arise
- Parental supervision and assistance is very important during homework periods
- Even if homework is completed in a childcare setting parents are encouraged to check their child's homework and to sign their child's homework diary each night.
- **It is essential that every child either reads or is read to nightly.**

Follow Up

Teachers like to check homework daily. However, this may not always be possible. At times, as the children progress through the school, pupils may check their own homework. This would always be done under the teacher's direction.

Evaluation

- Checking homework diaries
- In – class corrections
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Teacher- designed tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback from parents and pupils
- General air of satisfaction

Communication, Monitoring and Review

This policy will be communicated to staff and the school community as appropriate and will be subjected to regular review.

It will be reviewed initially after one year and then every three years, unless there is a compelling reason to review it earlier.

Ratification

This Homework Policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Ballinadee National School on 27th April 2021.

