

Homework Policy

Rationale

- Homework is necessary as a reinforcement of what students have learned during the day at school.
- Our Homework policy is being reviewed at this time to document changes that have occurred over time and that are working for our school community.
- Homework given at class level is standardised throughout the school, as much as possible, mindful of differentiation for students with learning difficulties. The suggested times given will be used as an approximate guide, only.
- An awareness of the above provides clarification for students, parents/guardians and teachers.

Consultation Process

Teachers, parents/guardians and students were surveyed using questionnaires and Survey Monkey, a very useful online survey app. The results showed that overall, the school community is very happy with the changes to the Homework policy that have occurred over time. The results also showed that Homework is valued and embedded in the students' growth and development in Scoil Eoin Balloonagh.

Aims

Scoil Eoin Balloonagh hopes this review of the Homework policy will enable the following:

- Foster further the students' independent learning habits.
- Reinforce work done in class.
- Develop concentration and study skills.
- Continue to strengthen links between home and school.
- Adapt homework to suit the needs of all children.
- Recommend a length of time for different class levels.
- Ensure Homework is meaningful and of value.
- Use a plastic pocket folder in Junior classes to help students and families to be more organised.
- Continue a "No HOMEWORK" policy for the months of December and June to alleviate undue stress for families, at these busy times of the year.
- Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, students are given "Homework Off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
- Parents/Guardians may check the Aladdin Connect Tab on the online Aladdin app to find the Homework for their child's class posted digitally, under the Homework tab.
- Parents/Guardians may check and sign homework every night, where applicable.
- Parents/Teachers correspond with each other about mutual issues of concern using the teacher's school email address eg. maryv.dennehy@scoileointrali.com via Microsoft Office

Scoil Eoin Balloonagh seeks to enable each child to develop to his/her potential. Homework encourages students to work independently and take responsibility for his/her assignments. Ideally, Homework will have a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. We aspire to challenge our students' ability and to provide opportunities for creativity and self-expression.

Homework reinforces what the child has learned at school. Thus, it is important that the child understands the Homework given and that it is completed neatly and carefully. Checking and signing your child's work and ensuring that it is done in a satisfactory manner creates an important link between home and school. We would remind Parents/Guardians to continue to encourage children to do his/her best work for Homework. As a courtesy, an explanatory note from a parent/guardian is required if a child's homework is not complete, via the teacher's school email address.

Oral work is as important as written work. Listen to your child read, ask questions, examine her/his spellings, tables, etc.

Approximate time for homework:

Parents/guardians can greatly help younger children by reading stories, rhymes etc. to them and also by talking with and listening to them and encouraging them to express themselves.

The following are general guidelines only.

Junior Infants: 0 – 10 mins - No formal homework. It is encouraged that children talk to their parents/guardians about what was done during the school day. Later in the year they read their books for their parents/guardians and tell stories of numbers, practice their letters etc.

Senior Infants: 0 – 20 mins.

First Class: 20 - 30 mins - Children are introduced carefully to homework

Second Class: 30 – 40 minutes.

Third Class: 40 – 45 minutes.

Fourth Class: 45 mins – 1 hour.

Fifth Class: 1 hour

Sixth Class: 1 hour

Homework is assigned on school nights from Monday to Thursday. As a general rule, Homework is not given at weekends, unless project work is being done, by more senior classes, occasionally.

Guidelines for Parents/Guardians

It is essential to have an appropriate environment to encourage good study habits.

- Homework should take place in a quiet area free from noise and distractions.
- Children should work at a desk or table.
- Where possible children start Homework at the same time every day, to establish good routines.
- Check oral Homework and written work every evening.
- Establish a good routine for Homework with a break, if necessary, depending on the age of the child.
- An email is required if a child's Homework is not complete, to explain the reason/problem.
- If a child is experiencing difficulties parents/guardians could provide further explanation or do easier examples to help. It is imperative that children do their homework, independently, with guidance parents/guardians, if necessary.
- If parents/guardians have given children a reasonable amount of help and the child still cannot complete the task, inform his/her teacher via email.
- Support the school in its efforts to encourage children to present their Homework neatly and carefully.

Guidelines for Students

- Bring home all the necessary copies and textbooks for Homework.
- Many junior classes use a plastic pocket folder to bring all their Homework items home.

- For children with dyslexia it is advised that books are kept in coloured plastic folders – one per subject.
- Ensure that you are free from noise and distraction – no mobiles, TV, Play station etc.
- Set a suitable time for Homework that takes account of other needs, such as recreation, extra -curricular activities or family circumstances.
- Students are expected to do their Homework to the best of their ability.
- If there is a problem with your Homework, inform your parent/guardian/teacher.
- Ensure that all work is well presented and done to the satisfaction of the student, parent/guardian and the teacher. Remember quality is more important than quantity.
- Remember oral Homework is equally as important as written Homework.
- Return Homework to Teacher in an organised fashion.
- Anything worth doing, is worth doing right.

Decisions re Homework

- Provisions/allowances /differentiation may be made for children with additional educational needs.
- Homework is given from Monday to Thursdays.
- As a general rule, Homework is not given at weekends, but Senior class teachers may give some on occasion, at their own discretion, ie project work.
- Junior classes use a plastic pocket folder to help with organisation.
- If work is untidy/not complete, regularly, a child may be asked to repeat the Homework or may receive detention. This detention is when the other children are at yard, outside the Principal/Deputy Principal's office. If this pattern persists, parents/guardians will be contacted via email or orally. Finally, if the issue is not resolved, parents/guardians will be requested to discuss the issue with the class teacher, at an appointed time.
- Homework is posted digitally on the Aladdin app.
- "NO HOMEWORK" policy during the months of December and June.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management on Tuesday November 29th 2022.

This policy will be reviewed in November 2024.