

9.4 Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

In Scoil Choilm Community National School we believe that homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and lifelong learning. Scoil Choilm CNS in consultation with the school principal, in-school management team, teaching staff and parents have drafted the following policy for homework in our school.

As a school we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It provides a link between the teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.
- It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.

Roles and Responsibilities

Guidelines for Teachers:

- Homework is given to consolidate work being done in class. Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.
- Homework must be consistent, a small amount given each night to help consolidate class learning.
- In September at the 'General Classroom Meetings' for parents, teachers will explain homework procedures in detail for that particular year group.
- In September teachers from First Class onwards will give a 'homework trial' in class. This is important as it shows the teacher how long homework is taking and who is experiencing difficulty. Teachers will amend where necessary, taking particular note of the outlined duration times.
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. This will be done in conjunction with the parent.
- Teachers must keep a record of complete/incomplete homework. This record will show teachers if a child's homework is regularly incomplete and teachers then need to speak with parents to find a resolution to this problem.
- Teachers should ensure that homework is completed to a high standard; copybooks ruled, dated and any written activities should be carefully and neatly completed. It is the duty of the class teacher to monitor this and put in place appropriate sanctions. Careless homework should never be accepted.
- As a school community we need to set appropriate standards for homework. A model of good practice is to use 2 homework copies, alternating them each night. In addition it is not good

practice to mix English and Maths homework in the same copybook. If Maths homework is not in a workbook or activity page format, a separate Maths copy needs to be used.

- At every opportunity teachers should encourage and praise the children's efforts.

Guidelines for Parents:

- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework after school, in a quiet place free from distractions. Some children might need a short break when they arrive home from school before starting homework.
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school.
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing it on completion.
- Help and encourage your child but avoid doing the homework exercises for them.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- It is important for parents to know that homework is always based on work done in class. Parents must speak with their child's class teacher if there is difficulty in completing homework.
- Parents should follow the recommended time guidelines for completion of homework (see time duration paragraph). Children should not spend more than their allocated time completing homework. Parents need to talk to their child's teacher if there is a time issue as regards homework.
- Parents should note that homework can be broken into blocks if necessary. For example: 2nd Class (30 minutes: 10 minutes writing, 5/10 minute break, 10 minutes spellings and tables, 5/10 minute break, 10 minutes reading)
- At every opportunity parents should encourage and praise their child's efforts.

Remember!

If homework is a stressful experience between a parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher to find a resolution to this issue.

Pupils should:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary (2nd Class onwards)
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present all work neatly including written work, sums, colouring etc.

Duration of Homework

- Junior Infants & Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes
- First Class & Second Class: 20-30 minutes

- Third Class & Fourth Class: 30-40 minutes
- Fifth Class: 40-50 minutes
- Sixth Class: 50-60 minutes

Content/ Guidelines for each Year Group

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday, (September-June) leaving the weekend free.

The above times are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time. However, if a child is taking more than the guideline time both the teacher and parent will discuss this and find a resolution. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Children self-correcting

In the senior classes self-correction sometimes takes place. Children correct their own work and sometimes swap their work with a class mate. The class teacher must teach this strategy explicitly in order to avoid children correcting mistakes incorrectly, writing inappropriate comments, inserting inappropriate correction marks or commenting in a negative way about another child’s work. In addition it is the duty of the class teacher to view these corrections in order to ensure accuracy.

Reading

At each class level pupils are assigned reading from their class reader. Additional reading at home is also encouraged and promoted throughout the school. Children have access to additional reading material from the school library and mobile library. Teachers help pupils to choose books that are at a suitable reading level.

Junior Infants:

- Teachers decide upon homework content at the beginning of each term.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher’s duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework will not begin in Junior Infants for at least the first 6 weeks of school.
- Homework is assigned to the pupils on a Monday and brought back on a Friday. An explanatory sheet is included with the homework each Monday explaining to parents what is expected.
- At Junior Infant level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework. These items are broken up over the week, with children completing a little each night.
 - Handwriting worksheets
 - Planet Maths Book
 - Planet Maths Satellite Book
 - Write Here A
 - Colouring to develop fine motor skills



- Sight word or rhyme worksheet
- Phonics and sight words for learning
- Reading from class reader each night (when children begin their class reader)
- Blending Lists of CVC Words (Term 3)
- Junior Infant parents are also encouraged to read with their children each night. This is discussed at the general parent classroom meetings in September.

Senior Infants:

- Teachers as part of their fortnightly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework is assigned to the pupils on a Monday and brought back on a Friday. Current practice is that an outline of homework for the term is sent home at the beginning of each term.
- At Senior Infant level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework. These items are broken up over the week, with children completing a little each night.
 - Spellbound B
 - Planet Maths Number Practice workbook
 - Planet Maths book (Term 3)
 - Write Here workbook
 - Spellings (2 per night)
 - Reading from class reader each night
 - Sight words sheet

1st Class:

- Teachers as part of their termly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- An outline of homework for the week is sent home at the beginning of each week. Children bring their completed homework to school each day.
- At 1st class level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework. These items are broken up over the week, with children completing a little each night. Teachers are not limited to this list if additional or alternative activities are deemed appropriate.
 - Spellbound – 2 activities each night
 - Planet Maths satellite workbook
 - Practicing numerals and number sentences

- Writing activity such as a cloze procedure completed in English homework copybook/workbook (twice a week from term 2 onwards)
- Spellings (4 per night)
- Reading from class reader each night/revision of sight words in the class reader
- Sight words sheet

2nd Class:

- Teachers as part of their fortnightly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework is assigned to pupils on a daily basis. It is taken down from the whiteboard each day and written into their homework journal. It is brought back the following day and corrected in class. This is the procedure for the week.
- If individual children find writing down their homework difficult the class teacher or SNA can help or write down the homework for the individual children.
- At 2nd class level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework;
 - Spellbound – 2 activities each night
 - Planet Maths – 1 activity each night
 - Tables- to be learned each night, e.g. 3+ tables revised each night for the week
 - Spellings (4 each night and written into their spelling copybooks)
 - Reading from class reader each night
 - Written activity linked to the class reader (Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)

3rd Class:

- Teachers as part of their fortnightly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework is assigned to pupils on a daily basis. It is taken down from the whiteboard each day and written into their homework journal. It is brought back the following day and corrected in class. This is the procedure for the week.
- If individual children find writing down their homework difficult the class teacher or SNA can help or write down the homework for the individual children.
- At 3rd class level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework;
 - Spellbound – 2 activities each night
 - Table Champion – tables for third class
 - Tables- to be learned each night, e.g. 3x tables revised each night for the week
 - Spellings (4 each night and written into their spelling copybooks)
 - Reading from class reader each night

- Written activity linked to the class reader
- Litríú (8 per week taken from 'Bunlitríú')
- In term 3, each Monday the children will write down 3 Irish sentences. The children will learn these sentences in school and at home over the course of the week.
- Two homework copies are used alternating each day to allow for corrections.
- A spellings, tables and Litríú copybook is also used for practice during homework.
- If Maths homework is being completed in a copybook, a Maths copybook should be used, either the class Maths copy or a separate homework copy for Maths.
- English and Maths homework activities should not be completed in the same copybook.

4th Class:

- Teachers as part of their fortnightly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework is assigned to pupils on a daily basis. It is taken down from the whiteboard each day and written into the children's homework journal. Homework is brought back the following day and corrected in class. This is the procedure for the week.
- If individual children find writing down their homework difficult the class teacher or SNA can help or write down the homework for the individual children.
- At 4th class level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework;
 - Spellbound – 2 activities each night
 - Work it Out
 - Tables- 1 set of tables per week (alternate multiplication and division)
 - Spellings (4 each night)
 - Reading from class reader each night
 - Written activities linked to the class reader (2 per night)
 - Litríú (10 per week taken from 'Bunlitríú')
- Two homework copies are used alternating each day to allow for *corrections*.
- A spellings, tables and Litríú copybook is also used for practice during homework.

5th Class:

- Teachers as part of their fortnightly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework is assigned to pupils on a daily basis. It is taken down from the whiteboard each day and written into their homework journal. It is brought back the following day and corrected in class. This is the procedure for the week.
- If individual children find writing down their homework difficult the class teacher or SNA can help or write down the homework for the individual children.

- At 5th class level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework;
 - Spellbound (2 activities per night)
 - Maths (Work It Out activities and/or Planet Maths activities)
 - Tables- 1-2 sets of tables per week (alternating between division and multiplication)
 - Spellings (4 each night)
 - Reading from class reader each night
 - 1-2 written activities linked to the class reader or SESE/project work/creative writing
 - Litriú (12 per week taken from 'Bunlitriú')
 - Each Monday the children will write down 4 Irish sentences (Term2 & 3 – 6 sentences).
The children will learn these sentences in school and at home over the course of the week. Simple written activities will be given based on these four sentences. For example answer some simple questions based on the sentences, make up your own questions about the sentences, pictorial representations of the sentences.
- Two homework copies are used alternating each day/week to allow for corrections.
- If Maths homework is being completed in a copybook, a Maths copybook should be used either the class Maths copy or a separate homework copy for Maths.
- English and Maths homework activities should not be completed in the same copybook.
- The children may be asked to memorise poems in English and Irish to help build their memory skills and to reinforce the fact that learning homework is of equal importance to written homework.

6th Class:

- Teachers as part of their fortnightly planning meetings decide upon homework content.
- It is very important that homework, where necessary is differentiated. Children need to be able to complete their homework within the appropriate time limit and without undue stress. Therefore it is the teacher's duty to differentiate homework for individual children.
- Homework is assigned to pupils on a daily basis. It is taken down from the whiteboard each morning and written into the children's homework journal. Homework is brought back the following day and corrected in class. This is the procedure for the week.
- At 6th class level the following are recommended as suitable items for homework;
 - Spellbound (1 unit per week e.g. Monday a & b) incl. spellings (4 per night)
 - Maths workbook; 'Work it Out'(1 unit per week e.g. Monday unit 1)
 - Tables- 1 to 3 sets of tables per week (alternating multiplication and division)
 - Reading and vocabulary exercises from class reader each night
 - Written activities linked to the class reader (2 per night)
 - Litriú (12 per week taken from 'Bunlitriú')
- Two homework copies are used alternating each night.
- If Maths homework is being completed in a copybook, a Maths copybook should be used either the class Maths copy or a separate homework copy for Maths.
- English and Maths homework activities should not be completed in the same copybook.

Sonas & Bród

- Homework is differentiated according to the needs of the children.
- Homework should only be given to children who are able to complete it. Homework is given 4 times per week where appropriate.
- Where applicable, the homework set is the same as that of the mainstream classroom.
- Content for homework should be discussed with parents at the IEP meetings. No homework should be given without consultation with parents.
- At Sonas & Bród the following are recommended as suitable items for homework;
 - Phonics worksheets
 - Maths worksheets
 - Pre-writing/writing worksheets
 - Colouring to develop fine motor skills
 - Reading (where appropriate)
- All of the above items are at the discretion of the teacher and can be used as appropriate as the children move up through the school.
- Homework in Sonas and Bród should only be given where appropriate. There should be no sanctions if homework is not completed. A review can be carried out with parents where necessary as homework is not always suitable for every child in Sonas or Bród.
- If homework is given the main emphasis should be on effort.

Monitoring and Sanctions

- Teachers will correct homework on a daily basis from 1st class onwards. Homework will be corrected, dated and signed by the class teacher. Appropriate comments and recommendations will be written where necessary.
- In the senior school, if children are self-correcting or swapping copies to correct each other's work the teacher must also check this work to ensure accuracy.
- If homework is not completed, and in the absence of a note from parents, the pupil will be instructed to complete the homework that evening. A note will be written in the homework diary to notify parents of this.
- Incomplete homework or homework that needs to be re-done can be completed in golden time or during break time.
- If homework is not completed over a number of days, and in the absence of a note from parents, an appointment will be made by the class teacher to talk to the pupil's parents.
- Teachers will use their discretion as regards completion of homework in sensitive family situations such as bereavement, homelessness, separation etc.
- It is important that teachers keep records of homework completed and incomplete homework. This can be shown at parent teacher meetings.



- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to place emphasis on the importance of homework. Rewards such as stickers, stamps etc. can be given for homework well done or good efforts made.

Ratification of this policy

This policy was ratified in May 2015

Signed: _____
Chairperson of the BOM

Signed: _____
Principal

Last date reviewed: June 2019

Next review date: June 2021