

HOMEWORK POLICY 2020

Introduction

The Board of Management of Rathcoffey NS recognises homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

Aims

In general, the broad aims of this homework policy are to:

promote the use of homework to consolidate learning and work being done at school

promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all teachers and class levels

keep parents in touch and involved in their child's / children's education

develop and encourage the habit of independent study

enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence

enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable

further develop links between home and school

Guidelines for Teachers

Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done – not as an exercise in isolation

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 and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.

Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.

Where pupils are receiving additional support from a member of the SEN Team the class teacher and SEN Teacher will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.

All teachers should constantly remind children that part of their homework is that they should make sure that they are prepared for the next school day.

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day.

As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once per week.

Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by the children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:

If homework has been neglected during the week.

In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

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.

Please note extra homework may be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented

untidy work.

What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.

This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.

Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

Guidelines for Parents

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are encouraged to:

Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework (please see below)

Supervise children’s homework, checking and signing the homework journal on completion

Be a resource for your child, but don’t hover over him or her with constant advice or do their work for your son/daughter. Remember that sometimes the best help is a word of encouragement, or an acknowledgement of the effort that is being made – a smile, a hug.

Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen

circumstances.

Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. All children from first to sixth have a homework diary that parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.

Creating the Homework Habit

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child's approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

Sit down with your child and together schedule a time for completing homework assignments. Homework habits are more easily formed if children work at the same time each day.

Help your child choose an appropriate study location – a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading.

Provide your child with good lighting and necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, paper and a dictionary.

Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarize what he or she learned.

If your child does need help, look over the material before you begin so you are familiar with the assignment.

If your child becomes frustrated put the assignment away for a while.

Please be available to check whether the assignment has been completed.

Praise your child for completing homework.

When possible, help your child relate homework assignments to everyday life and skills.

Sanctions for homework not done or incomplete homework:

Children will be given three warnings in relation to homework and then will be issued with a white card. The only exception to this is if the child has a note signed by parent/guardian stating a valid reason as to why homework was not done or completed.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between 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.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____ and will be review again in _____

Signed: _____ Chairperson

Date: _____

St. Mochuo's School

Rathcoffey, Donadea, Naas,
Co. Kildare

Tel/Fax 045 868721

E-mail: HYPERLINK "mailto:rathcoffeyschool@yahoo.ie"

rathcoffeyschool@yahoo.ie