

Homework Policy



Dunboyne Senior Primary School

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Principal: J.J. Brennan

Deputy Principal: Ms. Linda Manning

Introductory Statement

This policy was developed by the Principal in consultation with the Staff of Dunboyne Senior Primary School, the Board of Management and Parents Association. Dunboyne Senior Primary School 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 communication with teachers.

Rationale

- To promote positive home/school communication
- To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning
- To clarify for both parents and teachers the school's approach to homework

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life-long learning. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

Relationship to Ethos

Dunboyne Senior Primary School seeks to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential. Homework consolidates what is being learned in school and creates a link between home and school.

Aims

To develop skills and self-discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning

To develop study skills and to assist in establishing an appropriate routine for pupils in doing their homework

To promote consistency and a similar approach to homework across all classes

To encourage pupils to become independent learners and to revise/reinforce/finish work that has begun in school.

To strengthen links and communication between home and school

To keep parents in touch and involved in their child's education

Encourage self- motivation and initiative

Reading is acknowledged.

General Homework Guidelines

- All classes will be assigned homework from Monday to Thursday inclusive.
- In general, homework will be assigned by the class teacher.
- Homework may be differentiated if required in consultation with the support teacher.
- In general, pupils may be assigned oral, reading and written homework.
- Homework may include projects, research and hands-on activities.
- Homework will be explained to pupils in advance by the class teacher.
- At the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, pupils are given an evening off homework as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Weekend homework may be given if homework has not been completed or is of an unacceptable standard.
- Additional homework will not be used as a sanction for misbehaviour.
- The following timeframe for homework are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.
 - Third and Fourth classes **20-30 minutes - 40 minutes maximum**
 - Fifth and Sixth classes **25-40 minutes - 60 minutes maximum**

If pupils exceed the maximum time limit on a regular basis, having made a good effort, parents should consult with class teachers

Role of Pupils

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability
- Present written work neatly

Role of Parents/Guardians

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage pupils to work independently in so far as is possible. Resist over-helping or completing homework for pupils.
- Encourage pupils to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupils should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and TV.
- Monitor pupils to ensure homework is being done and concentration is being maintained.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.

- Check your child's homework even if they attend homework clubs.
- Sign the homework diary, checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the pupil has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, dictionary, PE clothes etc for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal.

Role of Teachers:

- Differentiate homework as required.
- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to pupils.

Frequently asked Questions

What happens when homework is not done?

If a piece of homework is omitted, pupils are asked to complete it the following evening.

When homework is not done regularly the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

If a pupil is unable to complete homework any evening for any reason, this should be recorded with a note from the parent.

What is the content of homework?

- Homework may be differentiated according to the individual needs and abilities of pupils who receive additional support from support teachers.
- 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.**
- Pupils often feel that reading and rote learning or 'learning by heart' is not real homework. Parents play an important role in listening to reading, tables, poetry, etc.

How much help should parents/guardians give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
 - Preventing interruptions of distractions, like TV or other electronic equipment

- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- 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 journal everyday.
- As pupils get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once per week (spelling test)
- Some items of homework may be checked by pupils themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for pupils.

When should parents communicate with teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Review

This policy will be reviewed at regular intervals.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by:

Chairperson, Board of Management