



Scoil Mhuire Rosslare - Homework Policy

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays but not on Fridays. The two exceptions where homework may be given at the weekends are when homework has been neglected during the week or the child has not made a fair effort or has presented untidy work. In senior classes some project work may be given at weekends. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between oral, reading, learning 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.
- Information sheets regarding tables and spelling homework attached will demonstrate how both should be learned
- A shared reading information sheet will explain how shared reading should also be done between parent and child

How much time for homework?

The following 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. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes	Rang 3	Up to 40 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes	Rang 4	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes	Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes	Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
 - Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework



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Fr. James Murphy **Principal: Anne-Marie Carthy**

- To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children
- 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.
- Shared reading if given for homework should be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal)
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed
- Please check your child's journal or school bag for notes/newsletters on a regular basis.

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 every day
- 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 children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents/guardians communicate with the teachers about homework?

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

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - parents/guardians working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school



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What happens when homework is consistently not done?

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/guardians and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.



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Success Criteria:

This policy is considered successful if;

- Homework is not a burden each and every night at home
- If homework is done by each child
- If feedback is positive or if there are no complaints from parents/guardians or students
- Teachers find that the homework is beneficial to them and the children

Roles and Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the class teacher to set and monitor homework and to communicate with home regarding homework. It is child's responsibility to do homework. It is parents/guardians responsibility to check homework and sign homework journal.

Differentiation:

Children's homework may be differentiated according to ability or needs.

Implementation:

This policy is effective immediately.

Ratification & Communication:

This policy will be ratified by the Board of Management in January 2014 and communicated to parents/guardians thereafter.

Review Timetable:

This policy will be reviewed in 3 years' time and amended as necessary by means of a whole school collaborative process.

Seconded: _____ Proposed: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management.

Date: _____



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