

Scoil Naomh Colman Mac Duaigh  
Tierneevin  
Gort  
Co. Galway

## Policy on Homework

February 2016

## **WHY GIVE HOMEWORK?**

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop the child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- 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 the children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

## **HOW OFTEN IS HOMEWORK GIVEN?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are exceptions:-
  1. if homework has been neglected during the week
  2. in middle and senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
  3. reading of library books
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat, e.g. keeping school rules, or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or 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 be 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.

## **HOW MUCH (TIME) 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 (given at teachers discretion)
Senior Infants	up to 15 minutes
Rang 1	up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	up to 1 hour
Rang 5	up to 1 hour 15 minutes
Rang 6	up to 1 hour 30 minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

### **HOW OFTEN SHOULD PARENTS MONITOR HOMEWORK?**

- Parents should check homework every evening
- All homework should be recorded neatly
- Please check schoolbag for Newsletter, messages etc.
- All written messages to the teacher should be put in an envelope or written in homework notebook
- If a homework journal is used, parents should sign it each evening after checking

### **HOW MUCH HELP SHOULD PARENTS GIVE?**

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:-
  1. providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
  2. to prevent disruptions 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 explanations 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 is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it is not enjoyable, shared reading should not be done.

### **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 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 children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children

### **WHEN SHOULD PARENTS COMMUNICATE WITH THE TEACHERS ABOUT HOMEWORK?**

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- 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
- A note to class teacher will suffice.

### **WHEN SHOULD HOMEWORK BE DONE?**

- Each family situation is different – both parents 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

### **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 School Policy was formulated by the Principal, Staff and Board of Management of Tierneevin N.S.

and was approved by the Board on :

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson, Board of Management