



Toonagh National School

Homework Policy

Rationale:

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Toonagh National School we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

1. It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
2. It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
3. It can involve parents and family in the pupil's work, to their mutual benefit.
4. It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
5. It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school and in later life.

It also enables the teacher:

- To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.
- To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.
- To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.
- To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on his/her own to the best of his/her ability. However, there may also be times when homework will require a parent to "work with" their child to complete a task. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children may be given 'homework off' as a treat or as an acknowledgment of some special occasion.

Homework Content:

Usually, homework contains 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 can contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, and finishing work started in class. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

Reading:

Children will have reading each night (Monday to Thursday) as part of their homework. This will take the form of either an individual ability-based text, a class-level text, or both. Please note that parents are responsible for ensuring that reading books are not damaged and are returned to school each day in good condition. Damaged or lost books must be replaced by parents.

Duration:

The following are guidelines for time spent on 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 it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines:

- **Junior Infants - 10 to 15 minutes (After October Midterm)**
- **Senior Infants - 15 to 20 minutes**
- **1st and 2nd Class - 20 to 30 minutes**
- **3rd and 4th Class - 30 to 40 minutes**
- **5th and 6th Class - 40 to 50 minutes**

Note: Each teacher has discretion in allocating homework but the responsibility for completion lies solely with the pupils and their parents.

These times are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time. However, if your child is taking more than the guideline time, please confer with the teacher.

Pupils Should:

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

Parents/Guardians Should:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary or folder.
- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher if needs be via a note or email the class teacher.
- Forward a note/email to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Check that all homework is complete and sign the homework journal.

Teachers Should:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to pupils and parents.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties

How often do teachers check or monitor homework?

Ideally, teachers 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. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

What happens when homework is not done?

Homework should be completed each night. However, the school understands that at certain times children may have an unusual activity after school that leaves little time for homework to be completed. For example, due to family commitments or involvement in a special occasion. In situations like this parents should write a note in the homework diary or send an email to the teacher and their child will be excused from homework. This should not happen on a regular basis. It should not reoccur often on the same day each week.

Children may work ahead on their regular homework (e.g. math and spellings) to allow time for after school clubs at the discretion of their parents only. Parents should take responsibility for this as the primary educator of their child outside of school. When homework is not done regularly the teacher will make contact with the parent/guardian initially via the pupil's homework journal to try to resolve the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent/guardian and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Distance Learning:

Please refer to our Remote Teaching and Learning policy on our school website. In circumstances where teaching cannot be conducted on the school premises teachers' may use the digital platforms of SeeSaw and Zoom. The school has signed up to the terms of service of the Online Platforms in use by the school.

* Please note: If your child is off school due to illness, homework is not provided through these platforms. Children or their parents can contact other parents or their child's classmates about work if they are well enough to do it.

We ask parents to support our Homework policy by:

- Providing space and time for their child to do their homework. Turn off the television, radio and all digital devices until the homework is finished.
- Checking that the homework is completed and signing the homework journal.
- Discussing interesting aspects of the work assigned.
- Using the method suggested by the teacher for the learning of spellings.
- Regularly checking memorisation of tables.
- Informing teachers of problems when they arise.

Roles and Responsibilities/Implementation:

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils/parents/teachers right up to the Board of Management.

Policy Review:

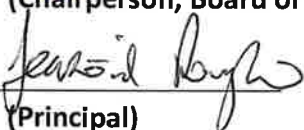
This Policy will be reviewed, as deemed necessary, by the Board of Management.

Ratification:

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Toonagh National School at its meeting on 17th
of May 2023.

Signed:


(Chairperson, Board of Management)


(Principal)

Date:

17/05/2023