

Homework Policy.

March 2012

Policy Document

Belclare National School



Homework Policy

S.N. an Croí Ró Noafa, Belclare.

Introductory Statement

This policy is concerned with

- 1 Reflecting our mission statement
- 2 Clarity of understanding of procedures and roles of responsibility for all parties – pupils, parents, teachers and Board of Management.
- 3 Promotion of effective homework and a positive homework experience
- 4 Ensuring that each child has homework with which she/he can cope
- 5 Ensuring that parents and other agencies are informed and involved, as appropriate, with homework.

Aims:

The policy aims to:

- 1 Provide clear understanding of the roles and responsibilities by all parties involved in homework.
- 2 Ensure completion of appropriate homework by each individual child.
- 3 Ensure that homework is a “stress free experience” for each individual child and for his/her family
- 4 Reinforce work done in school
- 5 Involve parents as partners in the education of their children.
- 6 Ensure that all parties are aware and informed on school policy on homework and procedures which will facilitate the completion of homework

Rationale for Policy

Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study skills. It consolidates and supplements the work done in class and promotes independent learning and creativity. Being involved in homework helps to inform parents of what their child is doing at school, is an indication of the child’s ability or lack of it and is given to consolidate their school work.

Goals of this policy

1. to ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across the school
2. to ensure an equitable distribution of study-time for each subject
3. to reduce pressure on students as a result of homework overload
4. to enhance the academic achievements of the student and to evaluate progress
5. to encourage parents to take an interest in and share responsibility for their child's work and progress.

How will Parents be informed?

- 1 Homework guidelines will be provided for parents by each teacher at the beginning of the school year by a newsletter from the teacher.
- 2 Homework will not be allocated at weekends
- 3 All pupils from first class upwards will use a homework diary which will be signed by parent/guardian each evening. .
- 4 5th & 6th class pupils will take full responsibility for completing their work However, if pupils choose not to accept this responsibility, then the class teacher will have to inform parents and ask the parents to resume taking this responsibility until the pupil is mature enough to do so, themselves.
- 5 Homework will be clearly displayed during the day in each classroom. Children will be given time to take down their homework. The Infant teacher will provide homework daily for junior / senior infants by dating appropriately.

Recommended Time

The following are the recommended times for children, at each class level, to spend on homework!

Juniors Infants:	10 minutes
Senior Infants:	15 minutes
First & Second Class:	20 to 40 minutes
Third & Fourth Class:	45minures to 1 hour
Fifth & Sixth Class:	1 hour to 1½ hours

Homework Content

Written Work: (To include some or all of the following)

Junior Infants: Tracing, colouring, writing, and 2 curricular subjects

Senior Infants: Writing, colouring, and 2 curricular subjects

1st & 2nd Class: English, mathematics and one other subject

3rd to 6th Class: English, Irish, mathematics and one other subject.

Special consideration will be given to pupils with special educational needs*.

Oral Work:

Junior Infants: Ask, look and tell-stories & rhymes, shared reading

Senior Infants: Ask, look and tell-stories & rhymes, reading

1st to 6th Class: Tables, spellings, reading, music practice

3rd to 6th Class: Tables, spelling, reading

- 1 To reduce the weight of schoolbags, children will only bring home the books and copies required for that night's homework. Facilities are in place in each classroom to store the books not required.
- 2 Children should be self-reliant for written homework
- 3 Written homework should be simple and kept to a minimum
- 4 Completion of homework is considered to be part of the school Code of Positive Behaviour.

Roles & Responsibilities

Principal & Deputy Principal:

- ❖ To monitor implementation of policy as commissioned by the Board of Management.
- ❖ To ensure active participation by all partners in development and implementation of policy
- ❖ To create an open atmosphere which will facilitate
 - Consultation
 - Identification of needs
 - Contribution from all partners
 - Reaching of consensus on policies

Teachers:

Teachers (class teachers and/or resource teachers in consultation with class teachers) will:

- 1 Decide the extent and content of homework
- 2 Assign homework clearly on blackboard during the day
- 3 Ensure, (from first class onwards) that assigned homework is recorded in homework diary.
- 4 Acknowledge completed homework
- 5 Correct/assess completed homework
- 6 Take account of the specific circumstances of individual children when assigning homework.
- 7 Acknowledge and reward effort in completing homework.
- 8 Equip children with the necessary skills to undertake homework
- 9 Provide “homework guidelines” for parents.
- 10 It is at the discretion of the class teacher of children with special needs to decide on the amount of homework to be given, if any, having due regard for the ability of these children. The teacher must liaise closely with parents to evaluate homework given and to monitor the effectiveness of same.

Parents:

- 1 Take responsibility for ensuring that she/he has made a reasonable effort to complete homework.
- 2 Support and implement school’s homework policy
- 3 Be familiar with homework guidelines
- 4 Acknowledge completed homework
- 5 Acknowledge and reward effort in completing homework.
- 6 Provide feedback to teachers on effectiveness of policy/guidelines and if there are any persistent problems with regard to homework

Students:

- 1 Complete assigned homework. Due regard will be given to the intellectual ability of pupils if homework is incomplete.

Board of Management:

- 2 To commission the principal to carry out the process of policy development with the staff.
- 3 To approve the policies and ensure their implementation.
- 4 To evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of the policy

Timeframe for Implementation

- 1 Immediate and ongoing
- 2 Next review date is June 14

Success Criteria

- ❖ Goals are attained
- ❖ Good quality homework being presented
- ❖ Parents and pupils are satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy
- ❖ Reduction in stress/pressure on pupils in relation to homework.

Ratification of Policy

- 1 Consultation by Board of Management, teachers and parents
- 2 Following consultation with all parties this policy was ratified at the next Board of Management meeting.

Chairperson

Date; March 2012.

Board of Management