

Newport Convent Primary School



Roll number:04067F

Homework Policy

Introductory Statement and Rationale

This policy was formulated by all stakeholders of Newport Convent Primary School. It aims to provide clarity for teachers, parents and pupils regarding the purpose of homework and the expectations, at each class level.

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and lifelong 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.

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 are also 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.

Aims of Homework

- To reinforce the work being done in the classroom.
- To link the learning of the child to the home.
- To inform parents of the work going in the school.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to take an active part in their child's education.
- To enable parents to support the work of the school.

Guidelines

- Homework is usually given Monday-Thursday.
- Sometimes the class teacher or principal may give no homework as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Parents play an important role in listening to reading and testing items that were to be learnt.
- Parents should provide their children with a suitable place and time to do homework. Distractions like T.V. should be kept to a minimum.
- Children should do written homework themselves, and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. If a child has great difficulty with their homework the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Ideally teachers like to correct homework daily. However, this may not always be possible. Some items of homework may be checked by children themselves

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

Time spent on homework

The following times 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 from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality not the quantity of homework that matters.

The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	up to 10 minutes
Senior Infants	up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	up to 40 minutes
Rang 4	up to 40 minutes
Rang 5	up to 1 hour
Rang 6	up to 1 hour

- It is important to note that these are suggested target times. In practice, the time taken will depend on the individual child. Please consult with your child's class teacher if you have a query/concern in this regard.
- If a child has spent the recommended time working on homework, parents may "sign off" if they feel the work assigned is too difficult or taking too much time.
- Homework may be differentiated for pupils with learning needs and for those with exceptional ability. Homework may be assigned by both the class teacher and/or learning support teacher following collaboration between them and the parent.

Pupils should:

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

Parents/Guardians should:

- 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, being aware of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
 - Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and screens.
 - Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
 - Sign Reading Log and check that all homework is complete.
 - Acknowledge that your child will make mistakes and encourage them to check back over their work to find and correct their own mistakes. Making mistakes is part of the learning process.
 - Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary and any other items needed for the next school day.
 - Communicate difficulties to the teacher using digital platform in use in your child's class or written note.
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- Where appropriate parents/guardians will be assisted in understanding the homework policy and being mindful of any obstacle that language etc. might present in contributing to a positive homework environment.
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- Children should **not** use the internet for any homework without parental supervision. Please refer to our Internet Acceptable Use Policy.

Teachers should:

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework on a regular basis to help identify pupils with difficulties and differentiate as necessary.

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 send a message to the class teacher, and their child will be excused from homework. (This should not happen on a regular basis.) Children

may work ahead on their regular homework (e.g. maths and spellings) to allow time for after school clubs at the discretion of their parents. 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 contact the parent/guardian 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.

Children on holidays or outside the country when school is open.

- We ask parents to respect the integrity of the school calendar by not planning holidays when the school is open. No schoolwork will be given to children going abroad for holidays during term time.

Time frame for review

This policy was reviewed and updated September 2023. It will be reviewed every three years in consultation by teachers, post holders and BOM in consultation with parents and pupils.

Ratification and Communication

Following ratification by the Board of Management, a copy of this plan will be available to parents and guardians on the school website.

Signed: Patrick O'Toole
Date: 11/10/23
Patrick O'Toole
(B.O.M. Chairperson)

Signed: Miriam Foley
Date: 11-10-'23
Miriam Foley
Principal