

Scoil Chormaic

COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL

SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA POBAIL



Stephenstown, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin

Baile Stiofán, Baile Brigín, Co. BÁC

Homework Policy

September 2023 onwards

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Introductory Statement

Scoil Chormaic CNS was established in 2010. It is under the patronage of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board. Our school is committed to the use of Restorative Practice which focuses on building positive relationships through positive communication. We recognise that homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home.

Rationale

The rationale for developing a Homework Policy is to inform the school community of the school's position regarding homework and to promote uniformity and consistency in the approach to homework. A homework policy is necessary to ensure that there is a reference point for parents, teachers, and pupils.

Aims

The aim of this policy is to:

- consolidate the daily work done in the school.
- benefit pupil learning.
- develop study skills.
- allow the pupil to work independently.
- provide a link between teacher and parent.
- develop a pupil's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- prepare pupils for the heavier burden of homework in post primary school.
- allow pupil to develop research skills.

In general, homework is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is taught in school or can be designed to challenge pupil's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. Pupils are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

Frequency of homework

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesday, Wednesdays, Thursdays.
- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- The amount of work given is in line with the school's homework policy.
- Pupils are given a "Homework Pass" at various times; as a treat, earning a certain amount of DOJO points, to mark a special occasion or to acknowledge a special event in the school calendar.

All homework is to be submitted at the agreed day, it can be banked up across the week in order to support and accommodate any after school activities pupils are involved in. This is also an essential skill to develop for post-primary school teaching pupils how to manage and plan completing homework for different deadlines or more active homework in summer months.

If the class teacher has any concerns regarding homework, this will be communicated through DOJO or Homework Journals.

Contents of homework

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between spellings, reading tasks, maths tasks and learning tasks (learning tasks can include other subject areas).
- This balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will sometimes include project work in the senior classes.
- More active based homework may be assigned during the summer months in order to encourage pupils to be active and involved in sport.

Duration of homework

The following are guidelines for time spent on homework. All pupils 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:

Junior Infants and Senior Infants - Up to 15 minutes

1st and 2nd - Up to 20 minutes

3rd and 4th - Up to 30 minutes

5th and 6th - Up to 40 minutes

During certain times of the school year, homework will be assigned on a reduced basis in order to encourage and support pupils engaging in the local community, pastimes and activities

If parents / guardians have any concerns regarding the homework please contact the class teacher via Dojo.

How parents can help their child

Parents can help their children with their homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do homework.
- Preventing distractions and interruptions while they are doing their homework, e.g. other children, T.V.
- So your child gets maximum benefit from their homework, parents are asked to:
 - Check the correct homework is done.
 - Examine spellings nightly and listen to reading nightly.
- If a child has difficulty, the parent should help the child to overcome this difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by doing the actual homework. In this instance the parent should inform the teacher of the difficulty.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense. It is meant to be an enjoyable experience between parent and child.

Monitoring of homework by parents

- Parents should check that the correct homework is complete and then sign the homework journal nightly. The homework journal will serve as reading log and as confirmation that homework has been completed.
- All messages to the teacher should be sent to the class teacher via DOJO.

Monitoring of homework by teachers

- Teachers will do a daily oral check in with pupils on how they are finding their homework.
- Spellings4Me is checked daily.
- Homework will be collected and corrected on a Friday. Project work assigned may differ.
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by pupils themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for pupils as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

Times to communicate with the teacher about homework

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because he/she does not understand some aspect.
- If the time spent on homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

Recommendations for time of homework completion

Each family situation is different – both parents working, childminders etc., ideally homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school, while the subject is still fresh in the child's mind. However, some children may need a break before starting homework.

Remember!

If homework is a stressful experience for a child or parent something is wrong!

This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose.

Should this occur on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher through DOJO.

Success criteria

This policy will be deemed to have been successful if:

- the steps outlined in this policy are used as a guideline by pupils, parents and teachers to create a connection and communication between home and school to support the additional learning of all students in their home environment.

Implementation

Roles and responsibilities

- All Staff: Making themselves familiar with this policy and it's procedures
- In School Leadership Team (ISLT): Maintaining and reviewing the policy as necessary
- Principal: Implementation of the policy, informing staff and parents/guardians of changes.

Timeframe

This policy has been revised in the 2022-2023 school year. It will be implemented in its entirety once agreed by the Board of Management.

Monitoring

Implementation of the policy will be monitored by the principal, and where appropriate, ISLT.

Review

This policy will be reviewed on an bi annual basis.

Ratification and communication

This policy has been developed by a team who engaged with staff, parents / guardians and pupil consultation along with the reading of relevant academic journal articles. This policy has been communicated directly to staff during a staff meeting, and will be made available electronically also. A hard copy will be available alongside other school policies.

It was shared with parents and guardians on June 2023 and ratified by the Board of Management on 29 August 2023 and placed on the school website.

Signed by

Colm Kilgallon-

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Deirdre Corcoran

Principal of Scoil Chormaic CNS