

## **Claddaghduff N.S** **Homework Policy**

The Board of Management of Claddaghduff N.S recognises homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

### **Aims:**

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

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can involve parents and family in the pupil's work, to their mutual benefit.
- It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
- 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.

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school.

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences, while other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Reading practice is a priority for all children.

The time required for homework varies by class as follows:

- Junior Infants: 10-15 minutes
- Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes
- 1st and 2nd classes: 20-30 minutes
- 3rd and 4th classes: 30-45 minutes
- 5th and 6th classes: 45 minutes-60 minutes

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.

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday, (September-June) leaving the weekend free for family activities. However, pupils may be asked to complete unfinished work at weekends. Homework missed due to illness does not normally have to be completed.

Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.

The nature of the homework assigned will inevitably change during such times as Book Week, Christmas, Communion or Confirmation time, Parent-Teacher meetings; occasionally pupils may be given a night off (or a Homework Pass) as a reward for a special effort made by the class or by an individual.

We ask parents to support our Homework policy by:

- Providing space and time for their child to do their homework. Turn off the television and radio 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.

### **Expectations of Pupils**

It is expected that pupils will:

- Return their homework on time
- Complete and present their homework to the best of their ability
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete, if homework has not been completed.

### **Sanctions**

If a child has not completed all of their homework, a note should be provided by their parent, otherwise sanctions will apply. When implementing this policy, there must be leeway. A teacher will always use his/her discretion when implementing a sanction, taking due regard for issues surrounding the matter, the regularity of such an occurrence etc.

- At the teacher's discretion, the task will be completed to a satisfactory standard at home or during part of a pupil's lunch break.

- The teacher may note in the child's homework diary that the homework was incomplete
- A child may be given unfinished homework to do the following night.

### **Guidelines for Parents**

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are encouraged to:

- Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework (please see below)
- Supervise children's homework, checking and signing the homework journal on completion
- Be a resource for your child, but don't hover over him or her with constant advice or do their work for your son/daughter. Remember that sometimes the best help is a word of encouragement, or an acknowledgement of the effort that is being made – a smile, a hug.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. All children from first to sixth have a homework diary that parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.

Please Note:

- Shared reading e.g. of library books, is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally pupils are rewarded with reduced homework or a child may be given constructive extra homework.

### **Creating the Homework Habit**

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child's approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

- Sit down with your child and together schedule a time for completing homework assignments. Homework habits are more easily formed if children work at the same time each day.
- Help your child choose an appropriate study location – a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading.
- Provide your child with good lighting and necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, paper and a dictionary.
- Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarize what he or she learned.
- If your child does need help, look over the material before you begin so you are familiar with the assignment.
- If your child becomes frustrated put the assignment away for a while.
- Please be available to check whether the assignment has been completed.
- Praise your child for completing homework.
- When possible, help your child relate homework assignments to everyday life and skills.

*In general, be encouraging and supportive, your attitude is contagious.*

### **Board of Management Ratification**

This policy is hereby ratified by the Board of Management of Claddaghduff N.S

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_