



Homework Policy

This policy is a revision of the Homework Guide document created in 2010. It was developed following discussion and sharing of practice in the College of Teachers meetings in the Autumn Term of 2014.

We understand that children's capacities to learn in the early years are concentrated in the morning time. The afternoons are for activity and play, the evenings and nights for a period of calm and absorption.

Children in Kindergarten do not receive homework.

Children in Classes 1 & 2, once they have mastered the basic of the phonic system, may receive a short reading homework several evenings a week. In addition, parents will see that children often spontaneously take up at home what they have been learning at school. They engage in self-directed reading, writing and number work, often of the most delightful and imaginative character. This is to be welcomed and encouraged, but not forced. We may term this as "work at home", rather than "homework".

Written homework formally begins in Class 3. At this age children have already acquired some considerable expertise in reading, writing, drawing and number. They also have the ability to begin to take personal responsibility for their work. The children greet the arrival of homework with great excitement, and they are proud to show at home what they can do by themselves. We want to keep that kernel of enthusiasm in the years that follow.

The purpose of homework is:

- to reinforce what has been learned in the classroom
- to develop strong organisational skills
- to nurture children's ability to work independently

The Class Teacher in consultation with parents carefully prepares the introduction of homework. Homework books and other materials might be distributed, and a short homework set on Tuesdays to be handed in on Fridays. A few independently written lines about something the child enjoys telling about, illustrated and well presented, might form the homework task for most of the first few months. It is important for the children themselves to take responsibility for doing this work at home, so while it is good for parents to ask to see the work, they should not take on the task of reminding or checking up. The best work in the long run is the children's own unaided.

Homework in Classes 3 and 4 might involve:

- Practical tasks
- Spellings to learn
- Short pieces of personal, descriptive or narrative writing
- Sets of sums to consolidate Maths class work
- Irish homework

Homework in Class 5 and 6 will have a trend towards more independent work.

- Research
- Project work
- Creative writing

The Class Teacher sets homework such as he or she judges to be appropriate. This will vary - some Main Lessons suggest useful work at home more than others. By Class 6, children could expect an average of three hours work at home each week. There will be some weeks when some individuals choose to do much more than that.

In Learning Support or Resource children may be given homework addressing their learning needs. This is given in place of or taking account of the amount of homework set by the class teacher.