

Scoil Bhríde, Ráth Chormaic

Homework Policy

Introduction

This policy has been reviewed in December 2019 following consultation with staff, parents and students. Feedback from all parties' involved, as well as current research into the benefits of homework was taken into account when formulating this policy.

Rationale for review

- To promote consistency and a similar approach throughout the school.
- Parental and children's questionnaire on homework indicated that there were some problems with content and time spent on homework.
- Existing policy was due for review.

In Scoil Bhríde we give homework for the following reasons:

- As education is a partnership between school and home, we in Scoil Bhríde, believe homework is an integral and beneficial link in our home school communication. It enables the parent(s)/guardian to keep informed of what their child is learning and involves the parent(s)/guardian in the learning process.
- Homework allows the student to become progressively more independent and responsible for his/her own learning.
- To consolidate the learning undertaken in school or it can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- To develop a work ethic in students and assist in the development of lifelong learning skills

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Monday to Thursday, leaving the weekend free for family activities, with certain exceptions:

- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' (as suggested by student council).
- As a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.

Content

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some tasks will be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experience while other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Homework contains a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. However it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written homework. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.

Time Guidelines

The following are guidelines for the time to be spent at homework. Different students will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. The time spent may vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year.

Junior Infants: 10 - 15 minutes

Senior Infants: 15 minutes

1st Class: 15 minutes

2nd class: 20 minutes

3rd & 4th classes: 20 to 30 minutes

Student Diary

Students in Junior Infants and Senior Infants have a homework folder for homework. Students from 1st class to 6th class have a student diary. The class teacher writes the homework on the whiteboard and allows time for the students to write it into the student diary. Parents are expected to sign the diary when all tasks are completed.

Role of Students:

- Enter homework accurately in the student diary
- Listen carefully to the teacher when the homework is being prepared
- Ensure to take home relevant books and copies
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability
- Present work neatly

Role of Parents/Guardians:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework from an early age
- Assist their child with homework in Junior & Senior Infants
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and television
- Encourage their child to work independently as far as possible
- Encourage their child to organise himself/herself for homework.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time
- Supervise child's homework, checking and signing journal
- Inform the teacher of difficulties/problems when they arise

Teachers should

- Set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties

What happens when Homework is not done?

- When homework is not completed, the child must do the homework that evening along with the current day's homework.
- If homework is not completed regularly, the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Remember, if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose of this policy. Should this happen on a regular basis, please make an appointment to discuss this matter with the class teacher.