



Ballinahinch National School

Scoil Náisiúnta Baile na Ínse

Ballinahinch National School

Homework Policy

Homework is an integral part of a pupil's education.

- It consolidates the work done in school.
- It helps to foster Home – School links.
- It provides an opportunity for the pupil to work independently.
- It develops the study habits, which will be so important when the pupil goes to secondary school.

Homework must have a clearly defined purpose

- It may provide the opportunity to complete an exercise, which has been started in school.
- It may develop work done in class.
- It may provide an opportunity for a pupil to apply what has been learned in class to other situations.
- It may provide an opportunity to do written exercises or do some rote learning, which may be too time consuming in a class situation.

Homework must be suitable

- Due care must be taken to ensure that the homework is suitable to the capabilities of each pupil.
- Homework should be complete within a reasonable timeframe.
- Children should not experience frustration or a sense of failure.

Homework must be explained.

- All homework given to the children will be fully explained in advance. (If time doesn't allow for a full explanation, a particular topic will not be prescribed as homework.)
- All homework should be written in the pupil's homework journal.

Homework must be corrected

- All homework will be corrected and assessed in such a way as to give due recognition to the efforts of each individual pupil.

Broad General Guidelines:

Junior Classes:

Junior Infants – Time 10 mins

Parents are encouraged to talk to their children, listen to them, read stories and **nursery rhymes**. Looking and pictures and discussing contents are an excellent way of improving **Vocabulary**. A little homework is given in word recognition, reading and numbers. Colouring is of great value

as it improves a child's attention to detail and their motor skills.

Senior Infants – Time 15 – 20 mins.

- Homework consists of Reading (English and Irish), Spellings, Writing and Sums.
- Again Colouring is very important as it shows the child's progress and improvement in choice of colour etc.
- Reading of Library Books in spare time should be encouraged.

First Class – Time 20 – 30 mins

- Reading (English and Irish), Spellings, (maximum 4 new spellings nightly)
- Writing and Sums.
- Reading of Library Books in spare time should be encouraged.

Middle Classes:

Duration: 30 to 40mins.

- Irish and English Reading from the class readers is given every night. (Reading from Library Books is encouraged)
- Tables and Spellings are given nightly. (maximum 6 new spellings nightly)
- Irish sentences or stories are given regularly to be rote learned.
- Maths and English exercises are given on a regular basis.
- History and Geography exercises are given occasionally.

Senior classes:

Duration: 40mins to 1hour

- All pupils are expected to do some reading (English and Irish) every night. (The material may come from the class readers, from library books or from any other suitable source.
- Tables and Spellings need to be learned every night. (maximum 8 new spellings nightly)
- A reasonable amount of Mathematics and either an English exercise or an Irish exercise will be prescribed nightly.
- Some rote learning will also be prescribed – e.g. Religion questions, Irish sentences, etc.
- History, geography etc – on occasions

How parents can help

- Create a comfortable environment, (younger children should not be expected to do homework in their bedroom while unsupervised).
- No distractions, (no telly!)
- Develop a routine. If possible ensure that homework is done at the same time every night.
- Take an active interest in your child's work
- Encourage their efforts
- Observe and monitor progress.
- Help / advise order in which work is to be done.
- Ensure that time is being utilised properly (No time wasting)
- Look over completed work
- Help avoid frustration – (If experiencing difficulties inform class teacher immediately).

This revised Policy was presented to the Board of Management on the 14th of November 2018. It was ratified by them and became official Policy on that date.

Signed:

Eileen Finnegan

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