



Ballinahinch National School

Ballinahinch,

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Homework Policy

Homework provides an important link between home and school. It helps to reinforce and consolidate learning that takes place during the school day and encourages pupils to develop independence, responsibility and good study habits. Parents and guardians can support their child by showing an interest in homework and by ensuring that it is completed to the best of the child's ability. Homework diaries should be checked and signed regularly.

General Principles

It is school policy to allocate homework regularly and consistently. Homework forms an important part of home-school partnership and supports pupils in practising, revising and extending their learning.

- Homework is normally assigned from Monday to Thursday.
- Homework is prepared in school and should, where possible, be within the capability of pupils to complete independently. Younger children, particularly in Junior and Senior Infants, will require supervision and support.
- Homework may consist of written work, oral work, reading, learning, practical activities or project-based tasks.
- Oral homework is as important as written homework and may include reading, learning tables, spellings, poetry or other activities.
- Pupils are generally free from homework at weekends and on public holidays, unless otherwise advised by the class teacher.
- On special occasions, or at the teacher's discretion, individual pupils or classes may be exempt from homework.
- During particularly busy periods of the school year, such as December and June, there may be no formal homework assigned. At these times, the emphasis may instead be placed on reading for pleasure, family activities and participation in school events.
- From time to time, pupils may be assigned project-based or research tasks which are designed to be completed over a longer period. Such assignments may involve work completed both at home and in school and may extend over one week or, in some cases, several weeks. Clear guidelines and deadlines will be provided by the class teacher.

Note:

- A copy of this procedure will be available for parents/legal guardians on the school website and/or on request from the school.
- Under the Education Act 1998, legally, all schools are managed by the school's Board of Management, on behalf of the school patron.

- Homework is corrected and reviewed in school.
- If a pupil repeatedly fails to complete homework, parents/guardians will be informed so that the matter can be addressed collaboratively.
- In exceptional circumstances, appropriate sanctions may be applied in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Recommended Homework Times

The following are approximate guidelines. Children work at different rates and some flexibility is expected. If your child is consistently spending significantly longer than the recommended time on homework, please consult the class teacher.

Class Level	Recommended Time
Infant Classes	Informal homework, reading and language activities Formal homework assigned after Christmas.
First and Second Class	20–30 minutes
Third and Fourth Class	30–40 minutes
Fifth and Sixth Class	1 hour

Guidelines for Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians play an important role in supporting homework and developing positive learning habits.

- Establish a regular time and routine for homework.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable space that is free from distractions such as television, mobile phones and other devices.
- Encourage and support your child while allowing them to work independently where possible.
- Show an interest in your child's work and praise effort as well as achievement.
- Encourage regular reading and the development of good organisational habits.
- If your child encounters difficulty with a particular task, please note this in the homework diary or contact the class teacher.
- Check that books and copies are kept neat and tidy.
- Review the homework diary regularly so that you are aware of homework assigned.
- Sign the homework diary when you are satisfied that homework has been completed.
- Test copies and assessments should be signed by parents/guardians. Corrections should be completed by the child and checked by parents/guardians.

A Balanced Approach

The school recognises the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between schoolwork, family life, rest, recreation and participation in extracurricular activities. Homework should support learning in a positive way and should be appropriate to the age and stage of development of each child. Therefore, homework may be differentiated by the Class Teacher according to each child's ability in consultation with Parents / Guardians.

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Policy Review, Ratification & Communication

This policy was updated in Ballinahinch National School in **August 2026** and ratified by the Board of Management on **Monday 24th August 2026**.

This policy will be reviewed every four years, however it may be reviewed at an earlier time should the need arise. Parents and staff will be informed of any amendments made.

The policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents Association.

Monitoring & Evaluation

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the Principal and Board of Management.

Signed by Chairperson

Signed by Principal

Two handwritten signatures are shown, each on a horizontal line. The top signature is a cursive 'P.B.' and the bottom signature is a cursive 'M. O'Sullivan'.

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