**Kilcommon National School,**

**Tinahely,**

**Co. Wicklow**.

**Homework Policy – May 2022**

**Rationale**

Homework fosters independence, self reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and lifelong learning. It re-enforces what children learn in school and it provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child’s education.

**Homework survey**

In late 2022, parents completed a questionnaire about homework. The following responses were considered in the review of this policy. Attention was particularly given to the duration of homework in various classes. New additions to this policy will be implemented from September 2022.

Parents of all pupils in 1st -6th classes were invited to respond to our questionnaire.

**NB Responses were received for 54% and the following represent responses received.**

Question 1: How much time is spent on homework

20-30 mins 40%

30-40 mins 19%

40-50 mins 27%

50-60 mins 8%

Over hour 6%

Question 2: How is work completed?

Some parental support 73%

A lot of parental support 13.5%

Independently 13.5%

Question 3: Describe homework environment.

Quiet room 54%

Busy family room 30%

Other options 16%

Question 4: Regarding the amount of homework your child receives, is it…

About right 78%

Too much 22%

Question 5: Does a parent check that homework is fully complete?

Yes 81%

No /sometimes 19%

**Policy Content**

1. Aims and Objectives
2. How often if homework given?
3. Homework content
4. Duration of homework
5. Types of homework
6. Guidelines
7. Correction of homework
8. Review
9. Ratification and Communication
10. **Aims and Objectives.**

The primary objectives of the policy are to:

* Consolidate learning.
* Promote pupil responsibility and independence.
* Foster study skills.
* Create a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
* Clarify the recommended time to be spent on homework.
* Develop positive links between home and school.

1. **How often is homework given?**

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays but not on Fridays with certain exceptions, eg If homework has been neglected during the week.

Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given

“Homework off / homework passes” as a treat, as an acknowledgment of some special occasion or achievement or in the lead up to events e.g., Christmas. Most written homework begins in the middle of September and ends in the beginning of June. Outside of these periods, the emphasis will be on learning and reading homework. No written homework is given on birthdays when the birthday falls mid-week.

1. **Homework Content.**

Usually, homework contains a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

Homework may contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be ‘learned by heart’, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class physical activities etc. Children often feel that reading and ‘learning by heart’ is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well.

1. **Duration of homework.**

Through homework good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted, and self-discipline developed. In 3rd-6th classes we aim to foster the child’s independence, expecting them to bring home the correct textbooks and copies.

The following are general guidelines.

We are aware that some pupils will complete work faster than others, due to a range of factors. Please contact teachers if homework regularly exceeds the recommended time below. We will find a solution!

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Infants | Up to 20 mins. |
| 1st & 2nd classes | Up to 30 mins. |
| 3rd & 4th classes | Up to 45 mins. |
| 5th & 6th classes | Up to 1 hr. |

1. **Types of homework.**

The following lists are examples of the types of homework which may be given. NB These lists are non-exhaustive.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Infants** | * Sounds practice. Fine motor skills activities. * Blending / sight word practice. * Reading * Letter formation. * Number practice. * Physical activities. |
| **1st & 2nd classes** | * Spelling activities * Tables practice * Reading * Maths * Physical activities. |
| **3rd – 6th classes** | * English & Irish reading * English & Irish spellings & activities. * SESE / project work. * Physical activities. * Maths. |

1. **Guidelines**

A. Guidelines for Pupils.

* Enter homework accurately in homework diary.
* Take home relevant books and copies.
* Complete homework assignments to the best of your ability.
* Present written work neatly.
* Talk to your teacher if you have any questions.

B. Guidelines for Parents/ Guardians.

* Set up a routine for doing homework.
* Encourage a positive attitude towards all homework from an early age.
* Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Provide support if needed.
* Where possible, provide a quiet, place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
* Sign your child’s homework diary to verify that work has been completed, including non-written homework. Diaries should be signed before Friday morning of every week (unless alternative arrangement with teacher).
* Contact your child’s teacher (via diary, seesaw or phone) if you have any questions or if your child regularly exceeds time guidelines. We will find a solution together!

**Remember:** If homework is a stressful experience for child and/or parent, something is wrong! This can lead to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Please contact your child’s teacher.

1. **Correction of homework.**

Where possible, teachers check homework daily. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

1. Review.

This policy will be reviewed on a regular and ongoing basis, according to the needs of pupils.

1. **Ratification and Communication**:

This policy will be displayed on our school website, and it will be made available to all parents.

This policy was ratified by the B.O.M. of Kilcommon National School

Signed.

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Chairperson Board of Management DATE

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1st class2nd class3rd class4th class5th class6th class