

Kilnamanagh CNS

Homework Policy

Why give homework?

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class.

However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity

- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

Guidelines for Teachers

- Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done – not as an exercise in isolation
- Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.
- Homework must be consistent – a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.
- Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur. Teachers will also differentiate homework as appropriate for pupils with additional needs.
- Allotted time that teachers are to expect the average child in each class to spend at homework
 - Infants 10 – 15 minutes
 - 1st & 2nd Class 20 – 30 minutes
 - 3rd & 4th Class 30 – 40 minutes
 - 5th & 6th Class 40 – 60 minutes
- Where a pupil receives homework from their SET teacher, the class teacher and SET will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive. Homework should not exceed the times indicated above.
- Homework for pupils in infants is at the discretion of the class teacher in collaboration with parents
- Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends.

Expectations of Pupils

It is expected that pupils will:

- Return their homework on time
- Complete and present their homework to the best of their ability
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete, if homework has not been completed.

Sanctions

- If a child has not completed all of their homework, a note should be provided by their parent, otherwise sanctions will apply. When implementing this policy, there must be leeway. A teacher will always use his/her discretion when implementing a sanction, taking due regard for issues surrounding the matter, the regularity of such an occurrence etc.
- In line with the school's code of behaviour, pupils may lose privileges due to not completing homework tasks.

Guidelines for Parents

The school encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. Parents are encouraged to:

- Establish a set routine and time for your child to do his/her homework (please see below)
- Supervise children's homework, checking the homework when it is completed.
- Try to allow your child to work independently as they should be able to complete most of their homework with minimal support.
- Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
- Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Please let your child's class teacher know if homework needs to be differentiated.

Creating the Homework Habit

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child's approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

- Sit down with your child and together schedule a time for completing homework assignments. Homework habits are more easily formed if children work at the same time each day.
- Help your child choose an appropriate study location – a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading.
- Provide your child with good lighting and necessary materials such as pencils, coloured pencils, paper and a dictionary.
- Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarize what he or she learned.
- If your child does need help, look over the material before you begin so you are familiar with the assignment.

- If your child becomes frustrated put the assignment away for a while.
- Please be available to check whether the assignment has been completed.
- Praise your child for completing homework.
- When possible, help your child relate homework assignments to everyday life and skills.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher to discuss how best to move forward for your child.

A copy of the Homework Policy is made available to school personnel and to parents by email. A copy of the policy is also published on the school website

Policy review; this policy will be reviewed by the school management authority periodically.

Date of Policy Adoption: 22/03/2021

This Policy was updated and adopted by the Board of Management on 19/06/2024

Signed Wang Farrell Date 26/06/24

(Chairperson of BOM)

Signed Fai Lee Date 26/06/24

(Principal)