



**Scoil N. Phádraig Naofa,  
Avoca,  
Co. Wicklow.  
Roll No 18198A**

## *Homework Policy Avoca School*

*March 2022*

### **Rationale**

The school already has a Homework Policy in place for many years; homework remains an important part of school life but there are a number of reasons why the policy should be refreshed:

- The current policy is in place since 2019
- To provide an opportunity to discuss the practice of homework
- To acquaint new families with school policy
- To re-enforce current school policy and remind people of what that is
- To incorporate the use of IT and to allow children an opportunity to contribute to the school website

### **Context**

Homework provides the children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practicing the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. For older students homework should also provide the opportunity to challenge their ability and to explore more deeply, through research, topics that are discussed in class. Students are expected to do their work to the best of their ability-no more, no less.

### **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 to develop a work ethic.

## **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given nights that are free of homework as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion
- In Avoca School homework passes are also issued to deserving students who have made a particular recent effort at some aspect of school life. These passes are issued at the discretion of the class teacher, Deputy Principal or Principal.
- From time to time, children may have unfinished or careless schoolwork/homework to complete in addition to the set homework for that night.
- During the months of December and June, minimal to no homework may be given. This is due to rehearsal for our Christmas concert and also due to the amount of field trips and activities that children undertake in June.

## ***Homework Content***

- Ideally homework will contain 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 will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be memorised, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, research on the internet (it is understood that the conditions of the school AUP policy would extend to home and that internet access should have adult supervision)
- Homework can be requested by the teacher in paper format or online through the Class Dojo App which is used throughout the school. Each child has a portfolio on this platform. Homework may be requested as a photograph, audio or video file.
- **N.B. Children often feel that reading and memorising things such as spellings, tables and poems is not real homework. However, this work is equally as important as the written work that your child receives**
- **Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring that such work is well done.**

## **How much help should parents give?**

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Endeavouring to prevent interruptions or distractions to work such as television or other children

- Check that all homework is completed to an acceptable standard (neat and good quality)
- Take an active involvement in school projects given by the teacher. These are usually related to a topic that is being covered in class e.g. projects about countries and other assignments that require research and presentation. These may be uploaded by the data controller on to the school website.
- Children should be able to do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. Encourage older children to use their dictionaries to check spellings
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanations or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child
- If a child has substantial difficulty completing a particular task within a reasonable period of time (fifteen minutes), it should be left uncompleted so as not to cause frustration or anxiety for the child. A note explaining the difficulty should be given to the teacher so that the problem can be addressed the following day
- Paired reading is a very important part of homework and is essential in developing fluency and accuracy. It is a special time to be enjoyed by both parent and child.
- Reduced homework will be given in the months of December and June.

#### **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- It is the responsibility of parents to check and sign a child's homework /journal every evening
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher regarding homework should be put in the homework journal
- Please check that your child records the homework neatly on the correct page and *ticks* each item of homework when completed.

\*Note: Please contact teacher if your child is regularly experiencing difficulty with homework or time being spent on homework is regularly longer than the recommended amount of time.

#### **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- Teachers like to check homework on a daily basis
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework may be checked less often.

Children themselves, under the direction of the teacher, may check some items of homework (and classwork). This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

#### **Leisure time reading**

Reading introduces us to diverse words and thoughts and gives children the opportunity to confront powerful emotional experiences in a safe environment. Reading allows us to share in the experiences of others and to learn from them. The cultivation of a regular reading habit privileges a child with a life enriching habit that will prove both pleasurable and valuable. Although *leisure time reading* is technically not homework it remains an activity that can be fostered at home in support of school practice.



### How can we foster and develop this habit in children?

- Encourage children to choose books independently
- Talk to children about their choice of books and be aware of what they are reading in their spare time
- Encourage children to spend time reading on a regular basis. This should include weekends and holidays
- Continue reading aloud with your child as long as possible. It encourages discussion and critical analysis of reading
- Let your children see you reading/maybe host a book club
- Join a library
- Visit book shops as a treat/give book tokens.

### Homework Time Guidelines



The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the *same* homework in *different lengths* of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important that it is the *quality* and not the *quantity* of homework that matters. Homework items such as spellings, tables and poetry should be revised frequently and not just confined to the allocated time. The following are general guidelines only.

#### Junior Infants

*Suggested time:* Homework should take 15m.

Children are sometimes asked to bring in objects or pictures related to class topics. Following consultation between parents and teachers, parents are asked to do paired reading and phonics with their children regularly. The children take home books to 'read' with parents. Copies/sheets containing written work should be looked at and praised by parents. Discuss this work with your child every night.

#### Senior Infants

*Suggested time:* Homework should take: 15mins.

Reading to be completed nightly with parent's assistance and supervision. Reading record to be signed by parents to indicate that homework has been done. The written work should be done with parent's assistance. Parents are also asked to work with their children on sight vocabulary and phonics.

### **First Class**

*Suggested time:* Homework should take between 20 and 30mins.

5mins – Reading/class reader

5mins – Learning (tables, spellings)

5mins – Maths

5mins – English Writing

5-10mins Library Book

Alternative homework may be given from time to time e.g. learning a poem/song/play or project type work.

### **Second Class**

*Suggested time:* Homework should take between 20-30mins.

5mins – Reading/class reader

5mins – Learning (tables, spellings)

5mins – Maths

5mins - English Writing

5-10mins – Library Book

Alternative homework may be given from time to time e.g. learning a poem/song/play or project type work.

### **Third Class**

*Suggested time:* Homework should take between 30 and 40mins.

10mins- Learning (spellings, tables, poetry)

10-mins – Maths

10 mins – Written work

10mins – Reading – class reader/library book

Research/project work from time to time.

### **Fourth Class**

*Suggested time:* Homework should take 30-40 mins.

10mins – Learning (spellings, tables, poetry)

10mins – Maths

10mins – Written work

10mins – Reading-class reader/library book

***Fifth/sixth class homework is viewed as a form of preparation for Secondary School. Time management, organisation and independence are extremely important at this stage. The time guidelines below are based on a child working attentively with no distractions.***

### **Fifth Class**

*Suggested time:* Homework should take 40-50mins.

10 – 15mins. Learning (spellings, tables, poetry etc.)

15 mins. Maths

10 mins. Written work

10mins. - Reading for pleasure/Library books/Class reader

### **Sixth Class**

*Suggested time:* Homework should take between 40 -60 mins.

15mins – Learning (spellings, tables, poetry etc;)

15mins – Maths

20mins – Written work

10mins – Reading /Library book

### **Please note:**

- From time to time projects and research may be assigned. This work will be spread over a number of nights/weeks
- Unfinished work in school may be given in order for each child to keep up to date with class work.

### **Learning Support:**

In some instances homework is assigned by LS/ Resource teacher. When this happens it has been agreed between LS/ Resource teacher and class teacher. Similar time allocation to mainstream class is suggested. All homework set by LS/ Resource teachers will be corrected by them.

## Revised and Ratified

This revised Homework Policy has been completed with the assistance of the teaching staff in the school in consultation throughout January/ February 2022. The Parents' Reps also made their submissions in relation to the policy

It was presented to the Board of Management for ratification on the 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2022. The policy will also be available on the school website from May 2022. This policy will be reviewed in 2025.

Signed:   
*Valerie Twomey (Chairperson)*   
*Mary Cahill (Principal)*

Date: 06.04.22.

