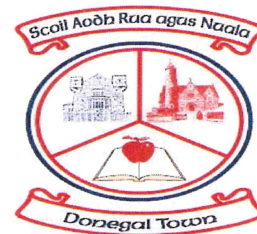


Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala

HOMEWORK POLICY.



INTRODUCTION.

The Homework Policy of Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala was drawn up in consultation with the teachers, Parents Association, Board of Management and senior pupils of the school to document, access and revise current unwritten practice thus ensuring a whole school approach to homework which would be familiar to all and accessible to the whole school community.

Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala seeks to enable each child to develop his/her full potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

AIMS

Through homework the school hopes

- To benefit pupil learning
- To reinforce work done in class
- To develop study skills
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes
- To strengthen links between home and school

ORGANISATION

- All classes get homework.
- All pupils in a particular class will get the same homework except those who for various reasons access the curriculum in a differentiated way.
- There should be a balance between oral, reading and written work.
- Non-written tasks to include reading, spellings, poems, tables, research, prayers.
- Homework is to be given at the end of a lesson /end of the day.(if given at the end of a lesson a reminder will be given at the end of the day).
- In assigning homework consideration should be given to the access the child has to the materials required for the tasks set. Eg. access to I.T., reference books etc. Children will be encouraged to make an effort, however limited, and encouraged to access the library and the local youth Information Centre and ICT.
- From 1st class upward a diary is to be kept for recording homework assignments. Children will be given time to record homework in diary.
- Parents are expected to sign the homework journals when requested.
- Teachers will check homework journals occasionally.

ALLOCATION AND TIME

Homework is given Mon – Thurs.

Children who have not completed homework or class work during the week maybe requested to do so at the weekend.

Homework may be rescinded on special occasions/class reward/the week preceding Christmas holidays/the week approaching the Summer holidays etc.

Homework passes maybe given at the teacher's discretion to individual children/classes or groups as a reward.

Homework should not be used as a sanction but always viewed as positive enhancement of the pupil's work.

Time limits should apply in relation to age/class/ability.

Guidelines:

Infants	15 minutes
1 st /2 nd	30 minutes
3 rd /4 th	30-45 minutes
5 th /6 th	1 hour (maximum)

Teachers check homework in the following ways:

- Check copies individually
- Give answers orally
- Hear oral work
- Class correction occasionally
- Taking up finished projects

When homework is not done the following steps are to be taken:

- A reason is asked for
- A note is written on child's copy or diary which the parent has to sign
- Lapses are recorded in the class record book
- Parents are informed about persistent lapses

When homework is poorly/untidily done the child is asked to correct it.
Parents are informed if it is consistently unsatisfactory.

Difficulty with homework – steps to be followed:

- Pupils should be given clear directions on how to approach homework assignments.
- They are encouraged to ask for clarification where necessary.
- Should a pupil have a problem in relation to homework assignments he/she should ask the teacher the following day.
- Each class teacher should make the pupils aware of procedures to follow when experiencing difficulty.
- Ask parents for support but leave it if the difficulty persists.
- Parents/guardians should ensure that a homework routine is established taking the following into consideration, time, place, preventing interruptions.
- Parents/guardians should monitor homework by ensuring that it is attempted and neatly done.
- Parents/guardians should not do homework for their child. The mechanism for dealing with difficulties as laid out above should be employed.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

Practical indicators of the success of the homework Policy are

- Feedback from teachers, parents, pupils.
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments are submitted by pupils.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Class Teacher assigns and corrects homework.

Learning support or Resource teacher liaise with class teacher re pupils homework.

Pupil records accurately, remembers constantly and takes responsibility for doing homework independently as far as possible.

Principal has a minimal role, mainly to co-ordinate the overall policy and to be aware of habitual offenders as reported by staff.

Parent/Guardian should support, encourage and provide a suitable environment for the child when doing homework.

Parents of younger children should listen to reading and read to their child.

Review of Homework Policy February 2013

The Homework Policy was reviewed in February 2013 and the existing policy was amended as follows:

Organisation

Junior and Senior Infants:

For infants all homework is enclosed in the child's plastic folder. This folder is an important communication link as it often will contain notices from school, forms from HSE and other school news. You may use this folder also to send notes/ messages to your child's teacher.

The Jolly Phonics programme which is taught in the school requires the input of parents for it to be successful. Parents are informed at the beginning of the school year how they can help their children with this programme. It involves Phonics activities and word boxes.

For Junior Infants and Senior Infants homework begins with the sound book. Listen to your child say the sound, do the action and sing the song. There may be a worksheet to colour in.

Next the Word Box will be introduced. Listen to your child as he sounds out and blends the words in the box. Tricky words; these are sight words so he/she cannot sound them out, he/she must learn them.

To further develop Literacy Skills parents are also encouraged reading with their children outside of their class readers/PM readers. These to be signed daily.

Oral Language

Parents can help develop their child's oral language by encouraging them to talk about their day, by repeating rhymes and songs learned at school, by talking about a picture and by interactive play.

Parents/ Guardians can also teach their children to further develop their independence and social skills.

- Training them to undo/fasten buttons/toggles/zips
- Hang up their coats, hats, scarves.
- Open /close schoolbags, lunchboxes and beakers.

- Dress themselves, brush their teeth.
- Use the bathroom properly, flush toilet, wash and dry their hands.
- Put litter in the bin.
- Become familiar with their parent's phone number and their address, their teacher's name and class.
- Take turns and share.
- **Each child must remember to have their own personal hand towel in their school bag each day.**

ASD Classes

The pupils in the ASD classes work on individual programmes so their homework is based on his/ her individual programme.

Homework for children who are absent

- If a parent requests homework for a child who is absent due to illness the class teacher will endeavour to provide some homework in order to ensure that the child will not be too far behind classwork on his/her return.
- If the absence is due to holidays or other similar events then the advice is that the child should read during the time off.

At all times it is school policy to encourage children to attend school every day where possible. In this way all children will receive an equal opportunity to learn.

This policy will be reviewed as and when necessary.

Ratification and Communication:

Policy Reviewed September 2017.

Homework Policy reviewed at Staff Meeting on 11th September and no changes were made.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management and communicated to parents thereafter.

Chairperson: Martin M. Gower Date: 25/09/17