



Maree N.S.

Maree, Oranmore, Co. Galway

Homework Policy.

Rationale

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Maree National School we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can involve parents and family in the pupil's work, to their mutual benefit.
- It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
- It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school and in later life.

It also enables the teacher:

- To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.
- To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.
- To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.
- To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge.

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school.

All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences, while other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Reading practice is a priority for all children.

Homework style and Duration:

Infants: 10-15 mins approx.

First and Second classes: 15-20 mins approx.

Third and Fourth classes: 30 – 45 mins approx.

Fifth and sixth classes: 40-60 minutes approx.

These times are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time. However, if your child is taking more than the guideline time, please confer with the teacher.

Homework assignment

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday, (September-June) leaving the weekend free for family activities. However, pupils may be asked to complete unfinished work at weekends. Homework missed due to illness does not normally have to be completed.

Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.

The nature of the homework assigned will inevitably change during such times as Book Week, Christmas, Communion or Confirmation time, Parent-Teacher meetings; occasionally pupils may be given a night off (or a Homework Pass) as a reward for a special effort made by the class or by an individual.

The class teacher will assign appropriate homework for each child in their class. However, the Special Education Teacher may assign homework, in consultation with the class teacher, where appropriate. Children with special educational needs will be supported in an appropriate manner to their needs and exceptions to this policy may apply.

Procedure:

- Homework Journal checked and signed by parents/guardians (1st to 6th classes).
- Children in the infant classes will have a homework folder.
- Homework should be done in relevant copies/books and **not** on sheets unless part of Project work.
- If homework is not done parents should supply a note explaining why to the class teacher.
- Where a note is not supplied the child may be asked to complete the homework during another time during the school day or at home.
- Homework journal can be used as a link between parents and teachers where children may be experiencing difficulties with homework.

We ask parents to support our Homework policy by:

- Providing space and time for their child to do their homework. Turn off the television/radio/electronic devices until the homework is finished.
- Checking that the homework is completed and signing the homework journal.
- Discussing interesting aspects of the work assigned.
- Using the method suggested by the teacher for the learning of spellings.
- Regularly checking memorisation of tables.
- Informing teachers of problems when they arise.

Role of Teachers

Ideally teachers will check homework on a daily basis. Some items of homework and indeed classwork may be checked by children themselves with teacher guidance. This can form part of the learning process for the children and help them improve their self-assessment skills. Every effort will be made to set homework appropriate to the child's ability.

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