



Homework Policy

Milford National School, Castletroy, Co Limerick.

What is a Homework Policy?

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to Homework diaries and liaison with teachers. This policy attempts to strengthen home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Milford NS has been formulated by the staff with parental input, and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Rationale

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy can be attributed to the following

- Further strengthening of home-school links
- Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day
- Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework

Relationship to School Ethos

It is the policy of the school, as far as possible, to identify all the needs of the pupil and to put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs. The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and to work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of the policy are:

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
- To enable the children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable To foster self-discipline and study skills
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes To further develop links between home and school

Resources

- Homework diary
- Blackboard/whiteboard
- Work-sheets.
- Textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.
- I.C.T.
- Aladdin App

Policy Content

It is school policy appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. The following are the allocations for our school:

Junior Infants	0-15 minutes
Senior Infants	0-20 minutes
First Class	0-25 minutes
Second Class	0-30 minutes
Third Class	0-35 minutes
Fourth Class	0-40 minutes
Fifth Class	0-50 minutes
Sixth Class	0-60 minutes

- Parents should exercise discretion in relation to the times allocated. If you feel that your child has worked to the best of their ability within the time given and they do not have it completed please sign and add a note in the homework diary.
- Occasionally child-friendly tasks are issued and it is recommended that parents read to and with their children on a regular basis.
- Homework is generally based on class-related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Spelling and the learning of tables are especially important.
- The assigned homework is explained to the children in advance. The different levels of the children are also taken into account.
- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children are rewarded with a reduced homework load if they have worked or behaved well.
- It is not our policy to issue homework as an exercise in isolation. It will, in most instances be an integral part of the subject being taught and be consistent.
- The SET will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils, but only as a reinforcement of class work. This homework has been specially differentiated for each child and should be given priority. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- Homework will not be given in advance of family holidays during term time.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note.
- Teachers check homework on a daily basis. Some homework may be self-correcting. Parents are advised to supervise assist, correct and check homework nightly. Maths homework requires supervision, checking and correction. Parental assistance is needed during homework periods.
- All children from 1st to 6th class have a homework diary which parents are required to sign every night. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent. Parent/guardian should still check homework and sign diary if homework is being done in after-school care or alternative childcare setting.
- “Homework off” or a reduction in amount of homework may be given at teacher’s discretion. Homework in June may encompass a different style of homework with less written work included. This is at the discretion of the class teacher. In general all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning “by heart”, drawing, collecting information and colouring.

Procedures for Parents

- Provide suitable comfortable facilities
- Remove distractions- T.V., younger siblings etc.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation

- Parents should not do homework for children
- Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary
- Check and sign homework diary every night
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time. This can be done by recording the time taken in the homework diaries.
- As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible
- Discourage morning homework
- Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table- books etc. available should the need arise
- Parental supervision and assistance is very important during homework periods
- Even if homework is completed in a child care setting parents are encouraged to check their child's homework and to sign their child's homework diary each night.

Evaluation

- In-class corrections
- Checking homework diaries
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Teacher- designed tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback from parents and pupils
- General air of satisfaction

Communication, Monitoring and Review

This policy will be communicated to staff and the school community as appropriate and will be subjected to regular review. In accordance with the systematic cycle of review of policies adopted in Milford National School, it will be reviewed initially after one year and then every three years, unless there is a compelling reason to review it earlier.

References

- The Essential Parents' Guide to the primary School Years - Brian Gilsean
- Your Child in the Primary School - INTO
- Your Child's Learning - DES Primary School Curriculum

Ratified by the Board of Management, Milford National School, Castletroy, Co. Limerick

Scheduled for review: **December 2020**

Signed **Liam de Búrca**
Chairperson

Date **17/12/2018**