

Scoil Naomh Iosaf, Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be appropriate for a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Aims:

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop and encourage the habit of independent study

Duration of Homework

The following are guidelines for the time that teachers expect the **average** child to spend 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.

Infants	0-10 minutes
Rang 1 and 2	15 to 20 minutes
Rang 3 and 4	30 to 35 minutes
Rang 5 and 6	40 to 45 minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends; however, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes choose to work independently on projects at weekends.

Guidelines for Pupils:

- Enter homework accurately in homework diary.
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly.

Guidelines for Parents

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework, in a quiet place free from interruptions and distractions
- Sign the homework diary (1st-6th classes) checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal.

Guidelines for Teachers:

- Homework is an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work 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 feedback and support as necessary.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.

Ratified by Board of Management in December 2018