

# Scoil Muire Banríon

## Homework Policy

### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continuous reference to Homework diaries and liaison with teachers. This policy, a redraft of a 2003 model, attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Scoil Muire Banríon has been formulated by staff with parental input and is endorsed by the Board of Management.

### RATIONALE

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy of the school 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 CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT OF THE SCHOOL

It is the policy of the school to, as far as is possible, identify all the needs of the pupil and 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 work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

### AIMS

The primary objectives of the policy are:

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work
- To enable the children 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
- Interactive Whiteboard
- Work sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies etc.
- ICT

## **POLICY CONTENT**

It is school policy to assign 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. Homework is normally given at the end of the school day. The following are the allocations for our school:

**Rang a Dó:** 0 - 20 minutes  
Tables, reading, maths, sentences, worksheets.

**Rang a Trí:** 0 - 30 minutes  
Tables, maths, reading, worksheets.

**Rang a Ceathair:** 0 - 30 minutes  
Tables, maths, English, oral work, sentences, topical work.

**Rang a Cuig:** - 0 - 40 minutes  
Tables, maths, English, Gaeilge, miscellaneous.

**Rang a Sé:** - 0 - 60 minutes  
Tables, maths, English, Gaeilge, topical work.

- 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.
- The assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of the pupils are also taken into account.
- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at weekends unless it has been neglected during the week, or unless exceptional circumstances such as projects or book weeks occur.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally child/ren are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked /behaved well.
- It is not school 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 Learning Support Teachers will occasionally give homework to their allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of class work. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- 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 and check homework nightly.

- All children have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.
- *Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to re- do this work during lunch break as well as completing a penalty sheet outlining the importance of homework. (Appendix A)*
- "Homework off" may be given at a teachers discretion. 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, colouring and finishing class work.

### **PROCEDURES FOR PARENTS**

1. Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
2. Remove distractions - T.V. younger siblings etc.
3. Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
4. Parents should not do the homework for their children.
5. Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary.
6. Check and sign homework diaries.
7. Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
8. Encourage children to complete homework as early as possible in the evening.
9. Parents should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, table books etc. available should the need arise.

### **PROCEDURES FOR TEACHERS**

1. Set homework for children under their care
2. Correct homework
3. If homework has not been completed, ascertain the reason why it has not been completed
4. Inform parents that homework is not being satisfactorily completed if this occurs regularly
5. Use their discretion to issue the child with a penalty sheet (Appendix A) for failing to have homework completed and to complete the homework at another time

### **ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

#### **Board of Management**

The Board of Management of Scoil Muire Banríon has a key role to play in the implementation of this policy.

#### **The Board of Management must also**

- Support the Principal and Staff in the implementation of the policy
- Ratify the policy

### **Principal**

- Promote a positive climate in the school
- Ensure the policy is implemented in a fair and consistent manner
- Arrange for a review as required

### **Teachers**

- Communicate with parents when homework is not being satisfactorily completed
- Deal appropriately with instances of homework not being completed
- Keep a record of instances of homework not being completed

### **Pupils**

- Complete homework in an acceptable manner

### **Parents**

- Monitor their child's work and sign homework journal when work is completed
- Co-operate with teachers in instances where homework is not being completed
- Communicate with the school in relation to any problems which may affect child's progress

### **REFERENCE TO OTHER POLICIES**

The following school policies support our Homework Policy

- Code of Discipline

### **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

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

### **RATIFICATION & COMMUNICATION**

This policy has been made available to school personnel, published on the school website and provided to the Parents' Association. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the Patron if requested.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ after its review by the Parents' Association.

### **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

This policy is currently in force throughout the school.

## **TIMETABLE FOR REVIEW**

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management in the school year 2018/2019. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school website or will be otherwise readily accessible to parents and pupils on request and provided to the Parents' Association. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the Patron and the Department.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **REFERENCES:**

The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary school years. - Brian Gilsean  
Your Child in the Primary school - I.N.T.O  
Your Child's Learning - D.E.S. Primary School Curriculum

