

Homework Policy

Introductory Statement:

The Pupils, parents, staff of Dunderrow N.S have agreed on the following procedure for this policy following a consultative process.

Rationale: We have decided to formulate a whole school plan on homework at this time as a logical follow-on from having participated in in-service on the Revised New Curriculum. We wish to acknowledge and implement the new procedures, emphases and methodologies that are expounded by the Revised Curriculum. We appreciate that pupils would benefit from the development and implementation of a co-ordinated programme for homework.

Vision:

In Dunderrow N.S. we agree that it is necessary to devise a policy on homework at this time

- *To promote positive home/school communication.*
- *To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning.*
- *To alleviate any concerns about homework.*
- *Parental feedback at Parent Teacher Meetings had shown there were guidelines required about the content and time being spent on homework by some pupil.*

Aims of Policy:

- *To develop skills and self discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning*
- *To reinforce work done in class – it allows for revision and practice*
- *To develop study skills and to assist in establishing an appropriate routine for children in doing their homework*
- *To promote consistency and a similar approach to homework across all classes*
- *To encourage children to become independent learners and to revise, reinforce, finish work that has begun in school*

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school:

- *Dunderrow N.S. seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.*

Homework Guidelines:

Why give homework?

- To re-enforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in the class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

Who gets Homework?

Homework is set for all classes. Junior Infants will be set homework after mid-term in October.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Monday to Thursday but may not be given on Friday.
- On Fridays there are two exceptions
If homework has been neglected during the week
In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

Recording Homework:

Children, from 1st to 6th, record homework in designated school homework journals.

Class Teacher marks homework for infant classes.

Content of homework:

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- A balance of oral, reading and writing is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to

be "learned by heart", hands-on activities drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, project work, research and finishing work started in class.

- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

Timeframe for homework:

The following are guidelines for time spent 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. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior/Senior Infants: 20 — 30 minutes

1st /2nd class: 30 minutes

3rd /4th class: 45mins —1 hour

5th /6th class: 1 hour

Pupils Responsibility:

It is the responsibility of the pupil in relation to the homework s/he is given to:

- Agree to homework being set.
- Ensure that they understand what is being assigned for homework and to make teacher aware if they require further explanation.
- Record homework in class diary.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability at home within a given time.
- Inform Teacher when difficulties arise in different areas of homework

How much help should parents give?

As school does not have homework club, all children will complete homework at home.

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

Parents may have a 'homework survival kit' It should contain e.g. pencils, biros, colours, erasures, rulers, tables book etc.

Homework plays an important role in the child's daily education. It consolidates what the child has learned during the day and gives further time for practical application of work done during school time. Homework should be of benefit, not a burden, to your child. It is important, therefore to regulate the amount of time spent each evening doing various exercises. The benefits of homework will quickly be eroded away if the work is taking too long

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check their child's homework journal every evening
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework
- Please check that your child records its homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect of tasks assigned to him/her on a regular basis.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.
- If parents themselves need clarification on the school's procedures, the approaches used for subtraction, multiplication, spellings, so that they can help their child's learning etc.

When should teachers communicate with parents about Homework?

Teachers communicate with parents about homework when it is undone, incomplete, sloppy, untidy or below child's ability on a regular basis.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different — both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh; however, some homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Remember:

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Homework for children (A) attending Learning Support (B) those with Special Educational Needs (C) EAL Requirements(D) Gifted Children:

Children with learning difficulties / special educational needs / EAL requirements and Gifted Children are helped to achieve their potential in the core skills of oral language, reading and writing. Assessment is ongoing and the Learning Support Teacher, in consultation with the class teacher, the pupil and the parents, draws up an Individual Education Programme/Plan (IEP) for such children. Specific short-term targets are agreed between all concerned e.g. in relation to reading, **homework**, handwriting. The class teacher maintains first line responsibility for the welfare of the child. Suitable resources are provided to meet the learning needs of individual children.

Success Criteria

Indicators of the success of the policy are:

- Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents, Home/School Community
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils.

Roles and Responsibilities

People who have particular responsibilities for aspects of the policy are:

- Class teacher *Pupil *Principal *Parent/Guardian *Support Teachers.

These procedures will apply from May 1st2007.

It will be reviewed on a regular basis to meet current demands.

The BOM officially ratified the above policy on 26/04/2007. It will be distributed to all new families on enrolment of their child/children.

Signed: Joseph O'Leary

Chairperson B.O.M.