

Homework Policy Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín.

Homework Policy

Title

Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín's Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was drafted by staff on our School-Development Planning Day, which took place on 16/3/09. This policy was also discussed by Coiste na dTuistí. It was put in front of the Board for discussion at the ---- Board Meeting. It was also discussed with students in the Senior Classes, to collect their opinions in relation to Homework.

After it had been discussed with all parties, the final draft was put in front of the Board for ratification.

Rationale

We felt it was necessary to devise a policy on homework at this time for the following reasons:

- *To promote positive home/school communication.*
- *To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning.*
- *Teachers had expressed concerns about homework.*
- *Parental feedback at Parent Teacher Meetings had shown there were some problems with the content and time being spent on homework by some pupils.*
- *Current practice was not in writing in policy form, As school is going quite rapidly, we felt it important that such a policy should be in place.*

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

- *Gaelscoil Bhaile Brigín seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.*
- *It also affords parents the opportunity to have worthwhile input into their child(ren)s learning. This is an opportunity for parents to see the level and progress of their child(ren). It also allows parents to help develop school work at home.*

Aims

The school hopes to achieve the following aims by introducing this policy

- *To develop skills and self discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning*
- *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.*
- *To strengthen links and communication between home and school*

Guidelines:

Assigning Homework:

- All Classes, including Junior Infants will get homework. Junior Infants will begin to get Homework at some stage during the first term.
- Homework will be differentiated to meet the needs of students, with the discretion of the class teacher. The class teacher will assign homework, however, Learning Support Teachers may give reading/spelling also.
- There will be a balance between oral, reading and written work. Tasks are varied between projects, research, hands-on activities, gathering data etc, depending on age/ability/level of class.
- Homework is seen as reinforcement of work done in class, not as a tool to introduce new work.

Homework is to be clearly explained by teacher to students in advance.

- Homework is given everyday, Monday – Thursday. There is no homework on Fridays and on other “special days” eg Lá Airgid/Lá Órga/Birthdays.
- How much time is recommended? Are there general guidelines or is there a suggested time frame given to each class?
- Is homework linked to behaviour? Is it used as part of the system of rewards/sanctions?

Here is a suggested timeframe for each class in relation to amount of time spent on homework.

- Junior Infants – up to 20 mins
- Senior Infants –up to 20 mins
- 1st Class: 30 mins
- 2nd Class: 35 mins
- 3rd Class: 35-40 mins
- 4th Class: 40-45 mins
- 5th Class: 50 mins
- 6th Class: 50-60mins

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- Please remember that this a guideline – pleas note also that this is amount of time child actually spends working!

- Extra Homework will not be used as a punishment (except in exceptional circumstances eg serious breach of discipline. The Code of Behaviour will be followed in such circumstances). However, whereby a student does not finish work as a result of messing/not working in school, this work m ay be done at home that night instead.

Homework journal:

- All classes from 1st + will have a homework journal
 - Parents are expected to sign the homework journal on a nightly basis. The amount of time spent on homework should be filled in here too. This is seen as an agreement that homework has been checked and that it is of a satisfactory standard. By filling in the time taken, it will show the teacher the suitability of time/homework.
 - When will teachers check the homework journals? Homework journals will be checked on a weekly basis by teachers.
 - Students are expected to keep their journals tidy.
- **Checking homework:**
 - All homework will be corrected.
 - Déanfar nóta de sa dialann obair bhaile agus is gá don tuiste é a shiniú sa chás nach bhfuil obair bhaile déanta. Sa chás seo, ba choir don tuiste an múinteoir a chur ar an eolas. I gcás nach bhfuil aon nóta ann, is gá é a dhéanamh an chéad oíche eile. I gcás gan obair bhaile a bheith déanta ar bhonn rialta, leanfar an cód iompair ie Am Órga, cruinniú le tuismitheoirí.
 - Coinnítear taifead de dhaltaí a dteipeann orthu, ar bhonn rialta, obair bhaile a dhéanamh nó a fhágann sa mbaile é. Rachaidh nóta sa dialann agus coinneofar taifead sa fillteán.
- Credit is given for effort as well as achievement, and prizes can be given out under the teacher's discretion.
 - When homework is not done, a note will be made of this in the homework notebook, and the parent is asked to sign this. This gives parents the opportunity to see when their child is not doing his/her homework. When a child has not done his/her homework, the parent should inform the teacher. When a teacher has not been informed by a parent, he/she will have to do it the following night. In the case of student who regularly fails to do homework, or leaves it at home, the Code of Behaviour will be followed.
 - A record is kept of pupils who, on a regular basis, fail to do homework or leave it at home. A note will be sent home and a record of it will be kept in the teacher's folder.

Pupils:

- Pupils are expected to do their homework every night to a satisfactory standard.
- Pupils are expected to make every effort to their homework, with guidance from parents if necessary, however, if they are having difficulties with it, parents should inform the teachers. A parent should not do the pupil's homework, it would be better to let the teacher know in order for that topic to covered again.
- Teachers discuss homework with students on a regular basis to ensure that all aspects of it are ok.

Parents/Guardians:

- Coiste na dTuistí were involved in discussions in relation to this policy.
- Parents are made aware through Parent-Teacher meetings/Newsletter and now by this policy, of agreed procedures in relation to homework. Coiste na dTuistí, in conjunction with Principal are also working on a handbook for parents, in which relevant policies will be available.

- As part of a post of responsibility next year, a pamphlet will be compiled on 'helpful hints for homework' e.g. the school's procedures, the approaches used for subtraction, multiplication, spellings, how parents can help their child's learning etc. This will include useful terminology (especially in relation to language)

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Hints for Parents:

- It is recommended that homework is done earlier rather than later after school.
- A quiet place should be provided – without a television or other distractions.
- Parents should avoid doing the child's homework, rather provide support and guidance eg handwriting/grammar/maths/spelling/
- If a child is having difficulties, let him/her take little breaks.
- that the parent should not do the homework, that they could provide further explanation or do easier examples
- If a child is having difficulties with any aspect of their homework, it would be of great value to discuss this with class teacher/put a note in journal.
- RE: Irish – try your best, however, we do realise that Irish is not, in most cases, the language of the home. Suggestions: have a list of phrases to help/have a
- Irish Classes for parents, specifically directed towards the needs of parents in relation to the language of the school. It will be explained to parents, especially those with little Irish that these classes are there to help them. Every effort will be made to keep the cost of these classes to a minimum. These classes will begin in September and continue for 10 weeks. Depending on demand, a more advanced class may be provided in the 2nd term.
- Moltar do thuismitheoirí go mbeadh "Trealamh tarrthála Obair Bhaile" acu sa bhaile - m.sh. Pinn luaidhe, ruibéir, rialóirí, leabhair táblaí. Cóipleabhar nó páipéar

It is recommended to parents to have a 'homework survival kit' e.g. pencils, erasures, rulers, tables book, copies/ dictionary etc.

Success Criteria

some practical indicators of the success of the policy

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

Roles and Responsibility

The following will have responsibilities as laid out below

* Class teacher – assigning/correcting/explaining homework – dealing with cases of homework not being done.

*Pupil – doing his/her homework to a satisfactory standard.

*Principal – ensuring the implementation of and adherence to this policy

*Parent/Guardian – helping at home/signing homework journal daily/relaying difficulties to teachers

Implementation Date

This policy will implemented from the date of ratification – (see below)

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed every 4 years or, if necessary sooner. This will be reviewed again during the school year 2013/14

Ratification & Communication

The BoM officially ratified the policy at the Board of Management Meeting of the 27/4/09. The policy was then circulated to all parents.

