



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 journals and liaison with teachers. Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education. The homework policy of Boolavogue N.S. has been formulated by staff with parental input and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Rationale

It was deemed necessary to review this policy as teachers felt there was a need to promote consistency and similar approach to homework throughout the school, especially when there is a change of staff in the school.

Relationship to School Ethos

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 and Objectives

In our school, we give homework for the following reasons:

- To consolidate work already undertaken in school-it allows for revision and practice. However, at times, homework may be more challenging and provide opportunities for creativity.
- To encourage children to become more independent learners and to revise, reinforce, finish work that has begun in school.
- To develop skills and self-discipline that will be of benefit to children to enhance learning.
- To develop study skills and to assist in establishing an appropriate routine for children doing their homework.
- To develop a work ethic among pupils and assist in the development of concentration skills.
- Homework is intended to be achievable by the pupil and is normally prepared by the class teacher. Pupils are expected to always do their homework to the best of their ability.
- Homework also allows parents to become aware of the work that is being done in school. It allows parents to be informed and involved in their children's schoolwork.



Resources

- Homework journal
- Seesaw (online platform)
- Whiteboard
- Work sheets, textbooks, folders, copies, readers etc.
- I.C.T.

Assigning homework

It is recommended that children are encouraged to sit down every evening in a quiet place, away from distraction, to do their homework.

All classes from Junior Infants to Sixth Class are assigned homework from Monday to Thursday. As a rule, homework is not given at weekends unless;

- Homework has not been done to the best of the pupils' ability (on a regular basis) during the week.
- Involves project work (this applies to Senior Classes in particular)

Occasionally at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, pupils are given a night 'off homework' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion/event in the school. Homework is differentiated for pupils with additional educational needs. Homework may be assigned by both the class teacher and/or SET teacher following collaboration.

Content of homework

Homework is seen as reinforcement of work done in class. Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and writing tasks but this balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day.

Oral homework should be given equal importance. It is important for children to do reading, spellings and tables every night.

It should be noted that reading and learning tasks are as important as written tasks. Pupils sometimes do not regard reading and learning 'off by heart' as homework. Parents play an important role in listening to reading and pieces to be learned off, thus ensuring this work is well done.

Homework will generally contain a selection of the following: reading, spelling, tables, written work, learning pieces 'off by heart', drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.



Time Allocation

Different pupils will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent can vary from day to day and from one end of the school year to another. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that is important. The following are guidelines for time spent on homework:

Junior Infants: up to 20 minutes

Senior Infants: up to 20 minutes

1st class: up to 30 minutes

2nd class: up to 30 minutes

3rd class: up to 45 minutes

4th class: up to 45 minutes

5th class: up to 50 minutes

6th class: up to 60 minutes

Homework journal

Pupils from 1st Class to 6th Class have a homework journal. The class teacher displays the homework on the whiteboard daily and allows time for the pupils to copy it into their homework journals. Alternatively, teachers may also upload the weekly homework on Seesaw (online platform). Parents are expected to sign the journal when all tasks are completed. Homework journals will be checked by the teacher daily insofar as possible. However, in the senior classes, they may be checked every second day or once a week.

Role of Parents/Guardians

- Parents can help their child with their homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework, away from distractions and interruptions.
- The child should be encouraged to do written homework independently and parents should only help if the child is having difficulty.
- If the child is having difficulty with homework, parents should help the child with further explanation and examples, but not by doing their homework for the child. In this case the parent should contact the teacher explaining the problem.
- In the junior classes, parents are encouraged to assist their child with his/her homework. As the child progresses to the senior classes, it is envisaged that he/she develops more independence and the parents' role becomes increasingly supervisory and supportive.
- Informal reading is encouraged. It is an enjoyable exercise between the parent and the child.
- Children should be encouraged to work through their homework and tick each item of work when completed.
- Parents should communicate with the child's class teacher when a child cannot understand some aspect of the homework.



- Parents should ensure that all homework is completed and is presented neatly. Pupils are expected to adhere to the school's handwriting policy when completing homework and use cursive handwriting throughout.
- Parental interest and positive affirmation are to be encouraged as it motivates the child to work to the best of his/her ability - *'Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí!'*

What happens when the homework is not done?

If homework is incomplete or unavailable for correction, a written explanation is required. Incomplete homework will be completed at a time specified by the teacher. When homework is not regularly done, the teacher contacts parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parents and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Role of Teachers

Ideally teachers will check homework daily. Some items of homework and indeed classwork may be checked by children themselves with teacher guidance. This can form part of the learning process for the children.

Every effort will be made to set homework appropriate to the child's ability.

Success Criteria

The success criteria of this policy will be determined by feedback from parents, pupils and teachers. This will be sought at parent/teacher meetings during the first term. In general, where pupils are handing in satisfactory exercises and assignments, reading and memorizing activities are well practiced, this will be interpreted as reflecting positively on this policy. Similarly, where the results of the regular class assignments are satisfactory this will also reflect positively on this policy.

Roles and Responsibilities

- The class teacher assigns homework, taking into consideration the abilities of the pupils, the recommended time allocation for homework and monitors it on a regular basis.
- The pupils (1st-6th) are responsible for writing homework in their homework journal and taking home all the necessary books, copies and equipment necessary to complete the homework. They are responsible for completing homework to the best of their ability.
- Parents are responsible for providing a suitable place, free of distractions, for their child to do their homework. They are also responsible for monitoring the homework process at home and ensuring that all homework is complete to the best of the child's ability. Parents are responsible for communicating when difficulties arise.
- The principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for its review.



Implementation

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

This policy will be implemented by all teachers in Boolavogue National School.

(b) Timeframe

The policy will be implemented in the academic year 2021/2022.

Review

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

This policy will be reviewed following ongoing consultation with all staff.

(b) Timeframe

This policy will be implemented from September 2021 and will be reviewed and updated by staff as needs arise.

Ratified by the Board of Management on:

12/5/21

Fr. Morgan M White

Chairperson of Board

Willie O'Leary

Principal

This policy is available to view at the school by request and on our school website at www.boolavoguens.ie.

