

Rathmichael NS Homework Policy –Jan 2022

The homework policy has been updated following feedback from teaching staff and a trial period for the new policy in the Christmas term, 2021. The parents were also surveyed and their feedback contributed to this change in policy. Results of this survey can be seen on the school website.

It is important that there are close links between parents and the school with regard to homework. Homework has a particular part to play in helping children to learn. It should

- be part of a carefully thought-out learning programme
- have a purpose, such as allowing children to complete a task which they have begun in school, or giving them the opportunity to apply what they have learned in other situations
- be suitable to the capabilities of the children
- they should be able to attempt homework within a reasonable timeframe
- be properly explained to children in advance
- be checked by the teacher- credit should be given for personal effort.

Aims:

- 1.To consolidate learning and build on work completed in school.
- 2.To cultivate the habit of private study, a sense of responsibility and independence.
- 3.To keep parents in touch with and involved in the children's school work and develop links between home and school.

Procedures and Guidelines:

Homework is set Monday-Thursday.

Homework assignments are written down daily by the pupils in their homework notebooks (1st-6th) and parents sign homework notebook each day.

Children in the Junior Infant class have lesson sounds to learn for the first two months and start readers after min-term.

Children in the Senior Infant class also receive reading homework daily and written homework twice a week-Maths and English.

The children follow the Oxford Reading Tree scheme from Junior Infants to Second Class.

In First class a more structured form of homework is introduced. Spellings, reading, tables and mental maths are set each day. Well-being homework is set once a week

and the children focus on additional mental maths problems once a week. Active homework is also encouraged once a week as we are an Active School.

In addition to this Read at Home starts in Second Class.

Additional poetry, novel work and fuaimeanna are introduced in Third Class.

Léigh sa Bhaile is introduced in 5th Class.

Homework should be differentiated where necessary.

When homework takes a considerable amount of time at home this should be discussed with the class teacher. Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher if homework is taking more than forty minutes or if it is causing stress at home.

Children in the Senior Classes will be given project work to complete at home on occasion.

Special Educational Needs:

Where children are receiving additional support from the SEN team, the class teacher and SET shall collaborate in relation to their homework.

The Role of the Parent

Parents have an important role to play in

- encouraging their children's work
- observing their work
- looking over completed work and signing it.

It is very important that they help their children with their homework in the most useful way. Try to make sure that children make an honest effort to do the homework without assistance. If they have a difficulty parents help should generally take the form of prompting and guiding them towards completing the task that is set. If parents have given them a reasonable amount of help and they still cannot complete the task they can then help best by writing a note to the teacher telling him/her of the child's difficulties.

Some practical suggestions for parents

Parents can also help by

- setting suitable times for doing homework that take account of other needs, such as recreation and family circumstances
- setting a reasonable amount of time for homework
- making sure children have the proper physical conditions for doing homework—a quiet time, a clear table, helpful books such as dictionaries
- getting in touch with the school at an early stage if the child is having difficulties with homework.

Resources:

- Homework Journal
- Soundbooks
- Oxford reading Tree Readers
- Spelling workbooks
- Fuaimeanna workbooks
- Tables copy
- Mental maths workbooks
- Read at Home
- Léigh sa Bhaile
- Spelling lists
- Class novels
- A-Z spelling app

The content of homework is at the discretion of the individual teacher.

Any change of policy is decided by the staff.