



Melview National School

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Homework Policy

Reference: 2023
Date: 23/10/2023
Approval: Mr. Jimmy O'Connor
Issued By: Bryan Kennedy

This homework policy of Melview National School was formulated to strengthen existing positive home - school links. Parents/ Guardians can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaising with teachers. The homework policy has been formulated by staff with parental input through the Homework Questionnaire and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Rationale

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy of Melview school can be attributed to the following:-

- Further strengthening of home - school links.
- To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning.
- Parental feedback had shown there were some problems with the content and time being spent on homework by some pupils.
- Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework.
- Existing policy is due for review.
- The SSE process in 2022/2023 school year.

Relationship to School Ethos

It is the policy of the school to, as far as 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 and Objectives

The primary objectives of the policy are -

- 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 enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable.
- 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.
- I.C.T.
- Library Pack

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 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 Infants:- 15 minutes

Envelope of flashcards, Library pack (per week for paired reading), revision of work done in class.

Senior Infants:- 20 minutes

Library pack for paired reading - per week. Headline copy, sounds copy, one worksheet, words and reading - per night.

Rang a hAaon:- 20 minutes . Reading, worksheet, sums, spellings and tables.

Rang a Dó: - 30 minutes. Reading, maths, sentences, spellings and tables.

Rang a Trí: - 40 minutes. Maths, reading, worksheets, spellings and tables.

Rang a Ceathar: - 40 minutes. Maths or written work, topical work, tables and spellings.

Rang a Cuíg: - 50 minutes. Maths, English, topical work, spellings and tables.

Rang a Sé: - 60 minutes. Maths, English, worksheets, topical work, spellings and tables, oral Irish.

- 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.
- 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. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily may be required to redo this work during lunch break. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly.
- All children from 2nd - 6th have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.
- "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.

Suggestions for Parents

- Have positive attitude to homework
- Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
- Remove distractions - T.V. , younger siblings etc.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Parents should not do the homework for their children.

- Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary.
- Check and sign homework diaries.
- Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
- As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
- Discourage morning homework.
- Parents should have a stock of ruler, pencils, rubbers, table books etc. available should the need arise.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

Monitoring and Evaluating

- 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 journal every day
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often eg. every second day or once a 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 the children.
- Parent - Teacher meetings
- Teacher observations
- Feedback from parents and pupils
- General air of satisfaction

Parents should communicate with the teachers when:

- your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- your child cannot do homework because he / she cannot understand some aspect.
- the time spent on homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

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 children need a break before starting homework.
- Ideally 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.

Roles and Responsibilities

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils / parents right up to the Board of Management.

This policy has been in operation in the school since September 2004.

Ratification / Communication

The reviewed policy was ratified by the Board of Management in October 2023 and communicated to all parents.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended in September 2026

Signed on behalf of the Board of Management:

Chairman: Jimmy O'Connor Date: 25/10/23.

Principal: Bryan Kennedy. Date: 25/10/23.