



**SCOIL NÁISÚNTA CHOLMCILLE
NAOFA
CASTLEGAR
GALWAY**

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HOMEWORK POLICY

Introductory Statement

This policy was drawn up in consultation with the staff, parents and Board of Management of Castlegar NS.

Rationale

This policy was drawn up in order to ensure that through homework, children practice and consolidate the work done at school.

Why give homework?

- To benefit pupil learning.
- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop the child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To provide a similar approach to homework across all classes.

Aims:

By developing this policy this school aims to

- To consolidate work being done at school
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work
- To develop and encourage the habit of independent study

Guidelines, Roles and Responsibilities

Guidelines for Teachers:

- Homework is an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done.
- When assigning Homework, ensure that it is well prepared and explained.
- Homework must be consistent – a small amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.
- Teachers will use classroom systems to check that homework is being done consistently – where inconsistencies/difficulties arise, teachers will consult with parents to ascertain reasons and decide on how best to support improvement.

- Class Teachers assign homework. On occasion, Support Teachers may assign homework for children in Learning Support groups instead of the Class Teacher. Children should not be assigned double homework. Home support activities will be agreed with parents when drawing up an Individual Learning Plan/Programme.

How can Parents help?

Parents should help their children by:

- Providing them with a suitable time and place to do their homework.
 - Preventing interruptions and distractions, like other children, T.V.
 - Children should do written homework themselves and Parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
 - Please check homework and sign homework journal **from 1st to 6th classes.**
 - Help and encourage the child but not to do the homework for him/her.
 - Sending a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances.
 - If Parents have difficulty helping with homework please ask class Teacher.
- ❖ Parents will be informed through the school journal when any aspect of homework is incomplete or not of a sufficiently high standard.
- ❖ If homework continues to be a cause concern and/or if the parent/teacher feels she/he is receiving little support from the parent/teacher then the parent/teacher will be invited to discuss the situation with the principal.

Guidelines for Children

- It is the child's responsibility to do homework to the best of his/her ability.
- Children are responsible for recording the assigned homework or in the case of younger children bringing their Homework Book to and from school.
- All children are encouraged to take pride in their Homework in terms of its content and presentation.
- Time must be given to reading and oral activities as well as written activities each evening.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, but not on Friday and not on weekends provided that the work has been done conscientiously and satisfactorily on the other nights. Children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given homework off as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- In the interest of the child and to develop a work ethic homework not done will result in class teacher contacting the parent through homework diary.

How much time for homework.

The following are guidelines for the time spent on homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. The time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the year. It is important to remember that it is the quality not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines:

Junior Infants: 12-15 minutes (after Halloween break)

Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes

First Class: 20-30 minutes

Second Class: 30 minutes

Third Class: 30-40 minutes

Fourth Class: 40-45 minutes

Fifth and Sixth Class: 45-60 minutes

Success Criteria

- Positive feedback from teachers, parents, pupils in relation to children's success with homework
- Evidence of regular and consistently completed homework assignments

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed in June 2012

Ratification & Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Castlegar NS on April 14th and subsequently communicated to the school community via the school's website and to new parents via the school induction pack.