



St. Nicholas' NS, Adare

Homework Policy

Rationale

This policy was updated by the school staff in 2013 and reviewed in 2015 in line with the school's improvement plan.

The homework policy was reviewed again in January 2025 by school staff members

Relationship to Characteristic Spirit of the School

St. Nicholas' N.S. seeks to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims

- To benefit pupil learning
- To reinforce work done in class
- To develop study skills
- To keep parents in touch with and involved in their children's school work
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes

Procedures

- All classes are assigned homework according to their level.
- Provision is made for pupils with special educational needs.
- There is a balance between oral, reading and written work.
- Homework is used as a reinforcement of work done in class.
- Homework assignments are stuck into /written into homework journals daily for pupils in 2nd to 6th classes. SNAs may assist pupils with this task.

- Details of Junior Infant homework is sent home periodically. This is explained at the beginning of the year. Pupils in Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class are given a sheet detailing the week's homework.
- Parents and teachers may communicate via class dojo or Aladdin
- Teachers check that homework is completed correctly and will give assistance where difficulties occur.
- Pupils will be excused from homework as a result of an exceptional event/ incident at home. Please let teacher know in this instance.
- Homework will generally not be given at weekends unless a pupil has failed to complete assignments during the week.
- On special occasions or celebrations pupils may be excused from homework.
- As part of the school's reward system pupils may earn a "Homework Pass" for written assignments.
- Senior pupils preparing for entrance/scholarship exams/finishing projects/studying for school based tests etc may be asked to do extra homework at the weekends as part of their preparation.
- In collaboration with the class teacher and parents, the support teacher may give specifically tailored homework to pupils who attend support classes e.g reading, spellings, tables or Maths.
- Pupils are taught study skills e.g. mind-mapping, spelling steps to assist them with their homework.

Responsibilities

Pupil Responsibilities

Pupils will aim to:

- Write down/stick in homework assignments correctly in journals. (1st – 6th class pupils)
- Junior Infant and Senior Infant pupils have a homework sheet sent home in their homework folder
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- Hand up homework to teacher.
- Inform teacher if there was a difficulty with an aspect of the homework assignment.

Parent/guardian Responsibilities

Parents and guardians aim to:

- Establish a good homework routine in a quiet environment.
- Ensure that homework is completed to the best of the child's ability.
- Give a helping hand when necessary.
- Listen to reading and help with learning tasks.
- Sign the homework journal when homework is completed.
- Consult with the class teacher if there are any concerns regarding homework.

Teacher Responsibilities

Teachers will aim to:

- Set homework at a level suitable to the pupil.
- Explain homework assignments
- Check that homework has been completed and sign journal.
- Correct homework assignments.
- Consult with parents where there are concerns.
- Give assistance where necessary.

Homework Guidelines

Junior Infants

Go over Jolly Phonic exercises.

Read Bookworm book/play Mata le Chéile game/literacy lift off book

Talk about the child's day in school.

Senior Infants

Spellings + spelling workbook or spelling-based activity

Word envelope

Jolly Phonics Sound Book

Read Bookworm book/play Mata le Chéile game/Literacy Lift Off book

One piece of written work – English or Maths

Rang 1

Spellings + spelling workbook or spelling-based activity

Reading.

Tables

One piece of written work – Literacy or Numeracy

On occasions – research for projects

Rang 2

Spellings + spelling workbook/spellings for me/spelling-based activity

Reading

Tables

One piece of written work – Literacy or Numeracy

On occasions – research for projects

Handwriting

Rang 3

Spellings + spelling workbook/spellings for me/spelling-based activity

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables

One piece of written work – Literacy or Numeracy

One piece of learning/look over work.

On occasions – research for projects

Handwriting

Rang 4

Spellings/litriú + spelling workbook

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables

One piece of written work – Literacy, numeracy and Gaeilge

One piece of learning/look over work

On occasions – research for projects

Rang 5

Spellings/litriú + spelling workbook

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables/ Maths facts/formulae

One piece of written work – Literacy, numeracy or Maths

One piece of learning/look over facts

On occasions – research for projects

Rang 6

Spellings/litriú + spelling workbook

Reading English or Gaeilge

Tables/ Maths facts/formulae

One piece of written work – Literacy, numeracy or Gaeilge.

One piece of learning/look over facts

On occasions – research for projects

- These are guidelines and may vary from time to time.
- Written assignments may include writing samples in the various writing genres.
- Homework should not take any longer than 45 minutes for junior classes.
- Homework should not take any longer than 60 minutes for senior classes

Success Criteria

- Satisfactory feedback from pupils, parents and teachers.
- Homework exercises and assignments successfully completed by pupils.
- Improvement in the links between home and school.

A copy of this policy will be circulated to all parents and will be published on the school's website.

This policy was originally implemented from the 1st December 2013.

This policy was last ratified by the BOM in November 2018.

It was reviewed and ratified again in 2025.

Signed: _____ Janet Bray _____ (Chairperson of the BOM)

Date: _____ 29/4/2025 _____

Review Date : _____ April 2029 _____

