

**Homework Policy for Caherleaheen NS.**

**Aims:**

* 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 learning independently

**Guidelines for Teachers:**

* Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and given in order to consolidate work done – not as an exercise in isolation
* Homework should never be given unless the teacher has prepared and explained clearly the objectives and expected outcomes of what is to be done.
* Homework should be consistent – a small amount, with learning at its core.
* Teachers will check that homework is being done and will give extra help where difficulties occur.

**Guidelines for Parents:**

Parents are encouraged to:

* Establish a set routine and time for the child to do his/her homework, in a quiet place free from distractions
* Supervise and engage with children’s homework, checking and **signing their homework notebooks.**
* Help and encourage their children.
* Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances or difficulty.

Shared reading and oral work is not homework in the regular sense, but is a vital part of engaging with and enjoying your child’s learning and progress.

1. As a general rule, every child from First to Sixth Class inclusive is given homework from Monday through until Thursday evening.athese classes have homework notebooks. Junior and Senior Infants do have homework folders. Parents are asked to ensure that their children complete homework each night. In the event of homework not being attempted or not being completed, especially in senior classes, teachers may insist that the homework is completed by the children during some of the school yard breaks or on the following night.

2. Each child from First to Sixth should have a homework notebook which is kept tidy and clean.

3. Occasionally, teachers or visiting VIPs may forego homework as a treat or reward.

Homework Guidelines.

The Early Years:

NOTE: There is no doubt that the early years are vitally important for your child’s social, emotional and intellectual development. **Homework should be regarded as quality and personal time between parent and child.** Parents, though they may be stressed for time, can rest assured that investment in communicating with and encouraging your child during homework and beyond, is time very well spent indeed, particularly from Infants to First Class. Surrounding children with social and playful games/stories/books and creative activity greatly supports your child, in partnership with his/her school.

**Junior Infants:** As part of the literacy programme, your child is taught the Jolly Phonics programme which involves being given written activities- letter formation and sound recognition. These written sounds and words should be practised each night. The tracing/writing of letters is more than just a quick little exercise. It is an **opportunity for parents** to elicit initial/ final sounds, rhyming words and engage with their child’s development of phonic awareness skills.

Your child will also be given a word bag. These words are sight words which your child revises often..

The teacher may send a homework folder home each day, with a reader which is for shared reading between parent and child. The main emphasis of the infant programme is on oral language/expression and it is important to listen to your child as he discusses pictures and characters in readers or relates the day's news. Please join in with rhymes and songs (using actions and movement). Generally, no homework is given until the October mid-term break.

**Senior Infants:** Please refer to Jun Infant homework above. Homework will consist of shared and independent reading, a small amount of Maths or manipulative activities. There will be be some writing, too. Again, the written or prescribed short reading passages are **springboards/prompts for parents to explore phonics and language in a relaxed and engaging way each evening.**

**First Class:** Again, as above, oral work and phonics are an important feature of parents engaging with First Class homework. Children will also be given some spellings/phonic exercises, a little written work and Maths activities (parents should remember that concrete materials such as counters/lollipop sticks/pasta/3D or 2D shapes and many household items greatly support maths work at home). Your child will also have English reading each night and Irish reading will be introduced during the first term.

**Second to Sixth Class:**

1. Literacy: reading and oral exploration/comprehension. Spellings/phonics.
2. Leitheoireacht, scríobhneoireacht agus litriú.

c) Maths: Sums or manipulative activities, as a consolidation of the day's work; Tables or number facts to be learned.

d) Written literacy activities, as a means of reinforcing or extending the day's lessons.

e) Project work/ some research on occasions

f) Digital activities on occasions

Below, please find the approximate times that teachers expect the average-paced child in each class to spend at prescribed homework. Please be assured that all children are different and some may have difficulty settling down to their homework tasks. Routine and a calm, encouraging atmosphere are important. Some children may have specific learning needs which benefit from differentiated homework, thus enabling them to achieve homework objectives and experience success.

Parents should inform the teacher of any difficulties or issues regarding homework, by means of a note in their child’s homework notebook or by arranging a meeting with the class teacher. Homework should never be rushed and we place great emphasis on tidiness, attention to detail and care of all copies and books, including books which are rented or belong to the school. Parents should check that school bags and pencil-cases are clean, tidy and well- equipped with pencils, erasers, rulers etc. This should be done *regularly.*

* Junior Infants 10 – 15 minutes
* Senior Infants 10 – 20 minutes
* First/ Second 30 minutes
* Third / Fourth 30 – 45 minutes
* Fifth class 45 minutes – 1 hour
* Sixth class 1 hour (max)

The staff of Caherleaheen N.S. recognise that parents are the Primary Educators of their children, as enshrined in our Constitution. We are your partners. Homework is a learning bridge between school and home.

Le dea-ghuí,

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mary Connolly, Vivian Nolan,

Principal. Chairperson .

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_