



TYRRELSTOWN

Educate Together National School

Homework Policy

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¹ A policy is that which has been approved directly by the Board of Management.

² A procedure is that which approval of has been delegated to the Principal and staff by the Board of Management.

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1. Introduction

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability.

2. What is homework?

Homework is schoolwork that teachers ask pupils to do at home. Homework is normally work already understood / covered in school. Older pupils may be asked to research a topic or work on a 'project'. Homework is usually given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. These dates are not fixed in stone and teachers and events may dictate otherwise.

3. Why is homework given?

Homework is given to reinforce what the children learn in school. It also gives the parents a chance to observe, access and discuss schoolwork with the children. It may help to develop concentration skills and good study habits. There will be group parent-teacher meetings annually to outline the year's work ahead.

4. How long should it take?

The following section gives a guideline for the time homework should take for each class level. If the homework takes too long or becomes a problem or cause of argument at home then it is most important to discuss this with the teacher.

- Homework for Infants should take 10 minutes approximately and usually takes the form of assisted 'reading' or 'word' work, once children have settled into school.
- Homework for 1st and 2nd classes should take about 20 minutes and might comprise some written work, some rote learning and some reading activities.
- Homework for 3rd and 4th classes should take about 30 minutes and might comprise some written work in English and Gaeilge, some rote learning, some maths and some reading activities.
- Homework for 5th and 6th classes should take about 40 minutes and might comprise some written work in English and Gaeilge, some rote learning, some maths and some reading activities.

Note: Different teachers may however interpret our homework policy in a flexible manner and if parents wish to give extra / holiday academic work to their children, then that is the parents/guardians prerogative.

The internet and our school website: www.tetns.ie, can support families.

5. What type of homework is given?

Homework may comprise elements of reading, written work and/or 'rote learning'. Different age levels, abilities and teacher priorities will determine the homework given at any given stage. Some students may be given different, extra or less prescribed homework.

Reading activities for Infants may be word or phonic based. Reading for junior and middle classes may be to re-read a page or pages of a class reader. Reading for senior classes may be to read a chapter of a class novel or a newspaper article or magazine.

Written work may mean copying out spellings or tables or putting words in sentences or composing 'My News', answering questions from a book or even writing short stories.

Rote Learning may mean learning spellings or tables 'off-by-heart' or listing the counties of Ireland or English grammar rules or historical dates etc.

6. What are the parents and teacher roles?

Parents are asked to support the homework process but they should not do the children's homework.

Teachers try and give relevant homework and monitor its success or otherwise. School-time is essentially for pupil learning and homework allocation and correction should not impinge on teaching / learning time.

