

## Homework Survey Results May 2023

We are continuously reviewing and evaluating our practice. Recently, we examined homework in our school and we welcomed the views of parents, staff and students on our homework practice. A survey was shared with all parents in April, while pupils from 3rd to 6th class also completed a survey and pupils from Junior Infants-Second Class completed a questionnaire with their teachers.

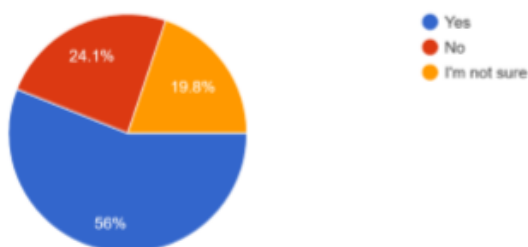
The parental surveys indicated how homework can be quite a divisive topic, with many parents often having opposing views and suggestions. We endeavour to take a balanced approach, with the best interest of pupils in mind, when reviewing and amending our approach to homework.

In line with our increased focus on pupil wellbeing, we very much valued pupil voice in this survey. All of the comments made in the parents' survey were also taken into account and we are grateful to those who participated and made constructive and insightful suggestions.

Please find the parental data below:

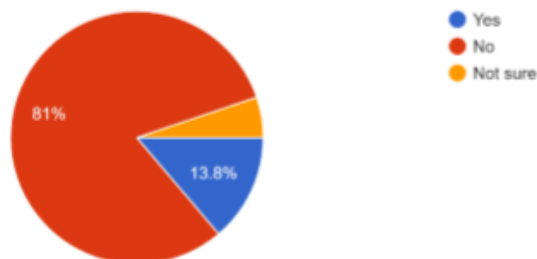
I am happy with the current approach to HW & would like to continue with this.

116 responses



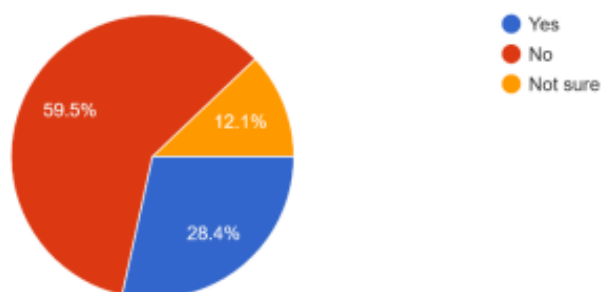
I think pupils should receive more homework that currently being given.

116 responses



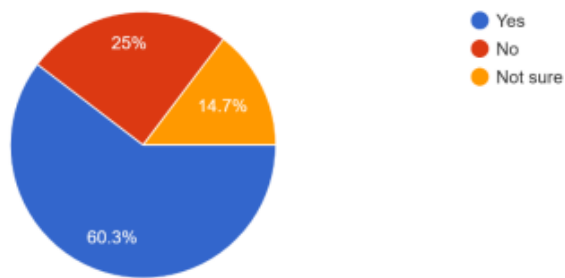
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116 responses



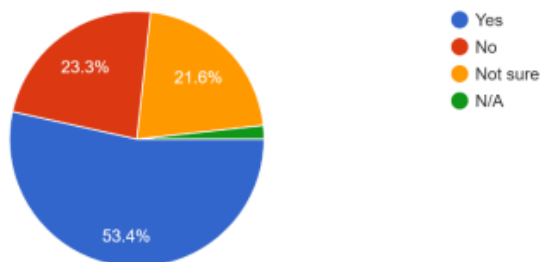
I am in favour of giving pupils no HW, except for reading, tables & spelling (where appropriate, depending on class level)

116 responses



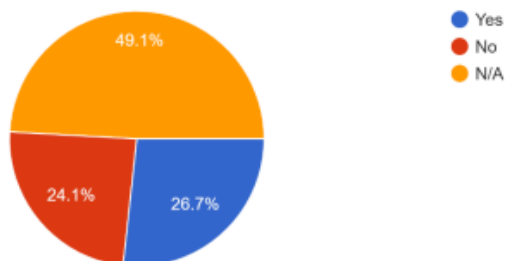
Do you & your child enjoy the menu of activities/choice board?

116 responses



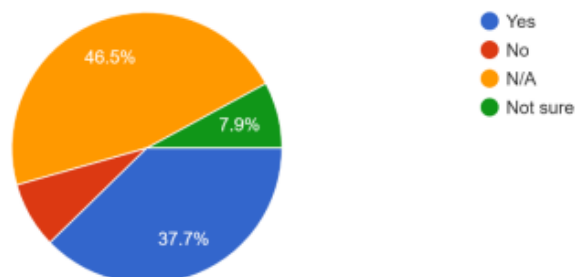
Do you & your child enjoy using the Seesaw platform for homework? \*Currently being used by JI-1st & Kathy's Class.\*

116 responses



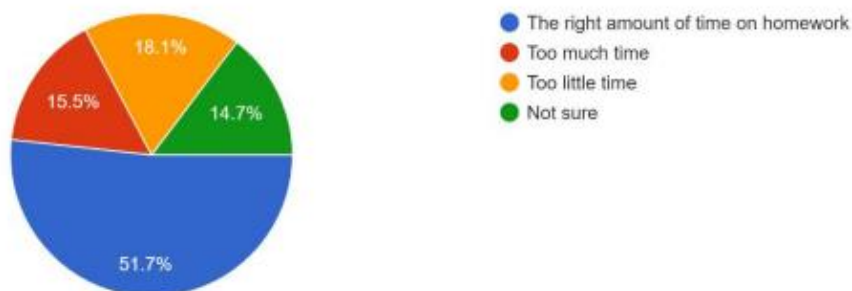
Do you think IXL is a useful tool for homework? \*Currently being used for 4th-6th & Sylvia's Class for English & Maths tasks.\*

114 responses



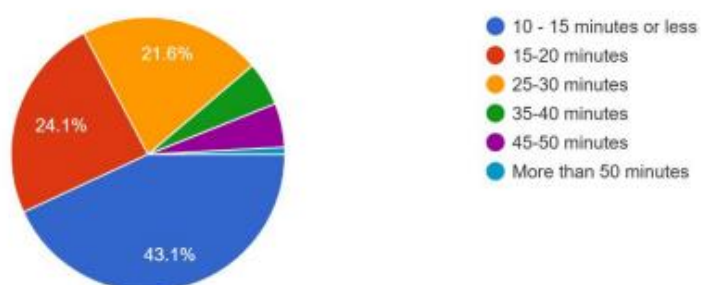
Do you think your child spends:

116 responses



On average, how long does your child spend on homework each evening?

116 responses



Following from our analysis of this data, as well as the data from pupil surveys, and a discussion with staff, we have made some amendments to our homework plan. We appreciate the value of giving some homework, even a small amount, in supporting a positive home-school link. As a school, we also recognise how hard children work in school & we value the importance of allowing children to use their time at home after school to play, be active outside and engage in enjoyable extra-curricular activities.

We would like to remind parents that you are welcome to liaise with the class teacher throughout the year, if you ever have any questions about your child's learning.

Please find more detail regarding our amended homework approach below.

### Home Learning Menu

There was mixed feedback on our home learning menu. Some parents expressed that they enjoyed doing the activities with their children & appreciate the home-school link, while others feel that it takes away from family time at home. The pupil feedback from JI-2<sup>nd</sup> class reflected that the vast majority of pupils enjoyed doing the activities. Based on this feedback, we have made the home learning menu optional from Junior Infants-Second Class.

The feedback from pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class indicated that the majority of pupils don't enjoy the home learning menu activities. Therefore, these classes will no longer receive this for homework. 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class pupils may receive project work instead each term, at the discretion of the class teacher.

### IXL – currently being used by 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>

The survey results indicate that pupils in 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> class are really enjoying the IXL activities, while 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils do not. As a result, IXL tasks may be sent home during the year to 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> class pupils, but 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class pupils will now receive Times Tables Rockstars instead.

### Seesaw – currently being used by JI-2<sup>nd</sup>

There was mixed feedback on the Seesaw platform. While it is seen as a valuable communication tool, particularly to share what's going on in the classroom, many families no longer use it to share home learning activities. As such, we will be keeping Seesaw on until the licence expires in January 2024, when we will reevaluate as a staff.

## Spelling Homework

In line with parent, pupil & teacher feedback and our efforts to make any homework given as meaningful as possible, we will no longer be sending spellings for homework. We will continue to focus on spellings in school through new & research based programs.

## Flexible Approach

Some parents commented that it would be great to have some flexibility in when homework can be completed. Families are always free to take an evening off and the set homework below can be completed when it suits. We would suggest three evenings a week but this will may differ for each family.

## Homework plan going forwards:

**All classes will receive the Frása na Seactaine for homework each week too.**

**J1-S1: Reading/Phonics** & one optional activity each week from the home learning menu

**1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>:** **Reading & tables** & one optional activity each week from the home learning menu

**3<sup>rd</sup>- 4<sup>th</sup>:** **Reading & tables** & IXL activity (at certain period of the year based on the needs of the class)

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>** – **Reading & tables** & Times Tables Rockstars

**ALC Blue & Green:** homework will be given in these classrooms based on the individual needs of pupils as determined by their teacher.

\*\*\*3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class pupils may also receive project work at the discretion of the class teacher.

\*\*\*During *Seachtain an Gaeilge*, pupils will receive Gaeilge homework instead. A similar approach will be taken during *Active School Week, Maths Week & Wellbeing Week*.

\*\*\* If your child is receiving support from our AET team, they may receive some focused tasks to support their learning targets where it is deemed helpful, in consultation with parents.

\*\*\*We appreciate that some families may wish to do some additional work with their children at home. Pupils are very welcome to share any of this work with their teacher throughout the school year.

We will amend our homework policy to reflect the changes above & share with our school community. The policy will be reviewed again with the whole school community in May 2025. *\*Small changes may occur at the discretion of the class teacher between now & then.*