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## Homework Policy

First written: March 2021  
To be Reviewed: March 2024

### Introductory Statement

This homework policy was formulated having first consulted Parents/Guardians, Teachers and Pupils; feedback was sought via staff meetings, pupil & parent surveys & focused discussions in relation to current homework practices, along with new approaches being trialled.

### Rationale

This document is intended to provide details of the whole school plan for homework of Glasnevin Educate Together National School. Our aim is to promote a consistent approach to homework and make expectations clear across all classes. We endeavour to make homework a meaningful and valuable learning experience for children as much as is possible.

#### 1. Why give homework?

- To re-enforce what a child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent and encourage parental involvement in their child's education.
- To foster independence, self-reliance and responsibility for life-long learning
- In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. Younger children, however, will usually need more support than older children. Additionally, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity

- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.
2. How often is homework given?
- Weekly homework is given, to be completed Monday - Thursday. There is flexibility in this schedule in that classes may be given an option to complete their weekly activities in three of the four set nights.
  - Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “Homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
3. What is the content of homework?
- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, offline & online learning tasks and written tasks. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
  - Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items. This will include core subject activities (English/Maths/Irish).
  - A monthly choice board of activities will be provided to encourage meaningful & enjoyable learning opportunities for children related to the topic or theme being taught in class. This will include project-based homework, as well as wellbeing focused activities.
  - Generally written homework will be assigned on Mondays to be completed by Thursday or Friday. This will allow increased flexibility for families.
  - Spellings/reading/tables should generally be practised every day from Monday to Thursday.
4. How much time for homework?

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

Junior / Senior Infants:	Up to 10 mins
1st class / 2nd class:	Up to 20 mins
3rd/ 4th class:	Up to 30 mins
5th / 6th class:	Up to 40 mins

In the ALC classes, homework is differentiated for each child. When children are given homework, it can include a choice board with a range of activities, individual programmes for literacy and numeracy, life skills activities or skill development activities directly related to the child's IEP.

The time allocation is the maximum time a child is to spend on their homework and they should stop when the time limit is reached regardless of the volume completed. While the focus is on quality over quantity, pupils should ensure that homework done reflects their best efforts. Reading for pleasure is not included in these guidelines.

5. How much help should parents give?

- Provide your child with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem
- Prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Praise your child's efforts and ask him/her their opinions / views.
- Have resources such as pencils and colours readily available.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense, and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.
- Children often feel that reading is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

6. How often should parents monitor homework?

- Homework will be sent on a weekly basis via the Aladdin Noticeboard. Generally, any further communication relating to homework from the teacher will be posted here too.
- Children may be required to submit homework directly to their class teacher, or alternatively via Seesaw (J1-3rd Class) or Microsoft Teams (4th – 6th Class)

7. How often do teachers monitor homework?
- Generally, teachers will check written or project homework at the end of each week. Reading/spellings/tables may be checked daily.
  - Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.
8. How & When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?
- Parents are welcome to communicate with the class teacher with any homework related questions or concerns via Aladdin or to the class teacher's *get.ie* email.
  - When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
  - When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect or if you have any questions related to the homework given
  - If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.
9. When should homework be done?
- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework.
  - Homework should never be left until morning time before school

Remember: If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

*Catherine Clune Mulvaney*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: March 2021

The policy was communicated to teachers and implemented in classes from Jun Inf to 6<sup>th</sup> Class.

It will be available for the wider school community on our school website.