



Lisnagry National School Homework Policy.

Introductory Statement

Homework is an ideal opportunity to foster an educational partnership between home and school. This policy, a redraft of a 2011 model, attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Lisnagry N.S. has been formulated by staff, with parental input, and endorsed by the Board of Management. It was reviewed during January 2016 and ratified by the Board of Management.

Rationale

The need to redraft and amend the homework policy of the school can be attributed to the following;

Further strengthening of home-school links.

Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day.

Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework.

Ensuring it reflects the new approaches and methodologies of the revised curriculum.

Relationship to ethos of school

It is the policy of the school to, as far as possible, identify all the needs of the pupil and put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs. The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

Aims – Why give homework?

The primary objectives of this policy are:

To reinforce what the child learns during the day.

To provide a link between teacher and parent.

To enable parents to support the work of the school.

To provide parents with an opportunity to take an active role in the child's education.

To develop a child's concentration skills, study skills, self-discipline and a work ethic.

To enable the children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. The teacher in class normally prepares work in advance. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across the curriculum. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.



When is Homework Given?

Homework is given on week nights. There are three exceptions. :- If homework has been neglected during the week.- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.- Extra homework may be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work. If homework is continuously not being completed, the class teacher will follow this procedure:(1) Verbal Warning.(2)Put a note in homework journal to be signed and dated.(3)Extra homework and (4)Detention. 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.e.g when the school team wins a sports final.

What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. 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, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/ coloring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class. Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents’ \ Guardians can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

The time spent by parents listening to and reading and hearing spellings and tables is of most benefit to the child.

How long should homework take?

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. It is worth noting that the time specified should be work time, exclusive of T.V. eating or daydreaming. If homework is not completed within the allotted time, it may be signed off at the discretion of the parents. Parents should put an explanatory note in the journal on unfinished homework. The following are general guidelines only on length of time appropriate for homework at different class levels. These should be looked on as average recommended times rather than strict guidelines as homework varies. For children receiving additional support, homework will be adapted according to their needs and abilities.

Junior Infants	5 – 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 15 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour 15 minutes

Homework may include the following:

Junior Infants

Word Box + Readers

Activity based on formation of letters or numbers.

Senior Infants

Word Lists

Written Activity

Class Reader/ Library Book

First Class

Class Reader/Library Book

Spellings & Tables

Maths Activity

Spellbound / Sentences

Second Class

Class Reader/Library Book

Both Irish and English Spellings & Tables

Maths Activity

English Activity

Religion: Songs and Prayers for Preparation of First Confession/ First Holy Communion.

Third- Sixth Class

The following list applies for all four classes however the quantity and level of difficulty will increase as the child progresses through the school.

English Reading and Spelling

Maths Activity and Tables

Written Activity: English/ S.E.S.E.

Irish Homework will be given every night and will consist of some or all of the following:

Irish Spellings, Leitheoireacht, Scríbhnoíreacht, Leabhar Notaí.

Each child from Senior Infants upwards must have a homework journal, in which all homework is taken down and completed. Junior Infants receive a weekly homework sheet keeping parents informed. A parent/guardian should sign and date this journal at least weekly after homework is completed.

The homework journal may also be used by the teacher to send notes / messages to the parent regarding the child and vice versa. It is a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers. Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the "Friday" or "Comment" sections of a particular week. However, it is understood that occasions may occur

where a confidential note is needed. This will be the exception rather than the rule. Please check that your child records homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed. Lisnagry National School notices and other letters to parents/guardians are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis. If for any reason the homework cannot be done please note this in the child's journal and date the note.

Parents should check all aspects of homework before signing the homework journal. Please note that checking your child's homework does not mean correcting your child's homework. Teachers will learn more from seeing your child's own work. This ensures that the child has the correct work done and enables parents to monitor their child's progress.

How can parents help with homework?

It is important to establish a homework routine and the following is advised: Set aside a quiet regular time.

Your child should be sitting comfortably at a table. Interruptions and distractions like television should be prevented. If your child is working independently - be available to help and show an interest in what is being done. Praise your child's efforts at every opportunity. Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

If working with your child you feel yourself becoming impatient - stop – as to continue will only have a negative effect.

Each child should be encouraged to complete his/her homework fully each night.

As well as completing the work, children should be encouraged to keep their copies clean, tidy and neat. Presentation is important.

Aside from school set homework, children's learning can be enhanced through various home based activities. Children in junior classes should be encouraged to read or be read to, children in senior classes should be encouraged to take an interest in current affairs through newspapers. Talking about news items can be very educational.

Parents should communicate with school about homework

when: A child cannot do homework due to family

circumstances.

A child cannot do homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect of it.

If the time being spent at homework is considerably longer than the time recommended by the school.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once a week. Spellings/tables are checked weekly. In junior classes, reading/sounds are heard regularly. Homework that is particularly well done may be rewarded with stickers, stamps or certificates. Some items of homework may be checked by the children themselves under the direction of the teacher and this, in itself, can be a useful learning process for the children.

Children are involved in self-assessment when they look at their own work in a reflective way, identify aspects of it that are good and that could be improved, and then set personal learning targets for themselves.

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 and 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.

It is school policy not to assign homework to children being withdrawn for holidays during the school term. We thank you for not requesting same.

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.

Success Criteria

The success of this policy will be determined by:

- Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils

Roles and Responsibility

The implementation of this policy is dependent on the co-operation and collaboration of:

- Class teachers
- Resource teachers
- Pupils
- Principal
- Parents/guardians

We invite parents/guardians of children with special educational needs to maintain regular contact with the class teacher/resource teacher.

Implementation

The BOM will implement this policy from September 2016.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Ratified by Board of Management in March 2016.

CHAIRPERSON _____