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Scoil Lios na Groí
Lisnagry National School



Lisnagry National
School
Homework Policy

This homework policy review has come about as a result of reflecting on new practices adopted during the Covid 19 pandemic. According to Dr. Joan Kiely , Dean of Education at the Marino Institute of Education (MIE) , “Covid 19 is acting like a catalyst to shine the light on homework”. The way we live now has changed from the way we lived 30 years ago but homework has not really moved with the times. Research conducted by MIE has confirmed that homework is the source of “considerable stress regardless of children’s dispositions and academic abilities”.

In this context, the staff of Lisnagry NS has given time to considering the merits of homework and how best to make it purposeful. We also wished to have a whole school approach to homework and how we can best communicate it.

There will be children for which homework is not appropriate or circumstances where differentiation is needed when a child is struggling with the prescribed homework, thus causing anxiety. In such circumstances, differentiation will be discussed with parents on an individual basis as has always been the case. It is our hope that most children will not find homework challenging and will be well able to manage it independently.

Reasons for giving homework:

- ☐ To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- ☐ To reinforce the learning experienced by the child during the school day.
- ☐ To enable parents to support the work of the school.
- ☐ To encourage study skills, concentration skills and a work ethic.

Objectives of this policy

- ☐ Ensure clarity to parents regarding content, approach, expectations, frequency and the method of communicating homework.
- ☐ To promote consistency of approach to homework across the curriculum.

- To reduce any stress experienced by pupils or parents around homework.

The following is the proposed outline of homework for the **Junior end of the school:**

- Aladdin will be the **platform for communication** of homework. There may be additional homework resources posted on Google classroom from time to time also.
- Homework will be posted on Aladdin on a **weekly basis on Mondays**. In 1st and 2nd class homework is also taken down daily in the journal to be signed by parents. This allows parents the opportunity to communicate on minor issues relating to homework. Infants get a homework note for the week and the same homework is posted weekly on Aladdin.
- The **content** will be as follows:

Junior Infants	Senior Infants	First Class	Second Class
Reading Word work – sounds, tricky words, word families Irish foclóir and phrasaí of the week Maths topic – written activity Grow in love	Reading Word work – sounds, tricky words, word families Irish foclóir and phrasaí of the week Maths topic – written activity Grow in love	English and Irish Spelling English Reading Writing activity Maths activity Tables Grow in Love Optional project work (SESE)	English and Irish Spelling English Reading Irish Reading Writing activity Maths activity Tables Grow in Love Optional project work (SESE) Sacrament preparation, prayers etc.

Note: The work above is for the full week and not every night.

- ☐ There may be times when a worksheet from S.P.H.E may be sent home.
- ☐ As homework is sent out on a weekly basis, it will also be reviewed on a weekly basis. On occasion, it will be returned for completion or amendment.

The following is the proposed outline of homework for the **Senior end of the school:**

- ☐ Homework will be sent out on a **weekly basis on Mondays**. It will be posted on *Aladdin* and will be written in the homework journal to be signed by parents. This allows for parents to communicate on **minor** issues relating to homework. All other issues will continue to be directed to the office.
- ☐ The work does not need completion until Thursday evening.
- ☐ Work above will be supplemented or substituted at times by S.P.H.E activities, project work, Debates, Grow in Love worksheets or prayers for Sacraments and Poetry. Teachers may also send out links to useful websites to support the child's learning or post additional resources on Google Classroom. The teacher also reserves his/her discretion to adapt homework when necessary to the needs of the class or for environmental or Seasonal reasons.
- ☐ Guided Reading will be given when applicable.
- ☐ Children will have spellings to learn each week (3 per night is advised). Children will be given the opportunity to complete the activities in each unit in school. On occasion, children will be asked to finish off these activities at home.
- ☐ Reading at home is encouraged and facilitated by the provision of library books.
- ☐ Religion homework from *Grow in Love* will be assigned periodically.
- ☐ As homework is sent out on a weekly basis, it will also be reviewed on a weekly basis.
- ☐ The **content** will be as follows:

Third Class(Weekly)	Fourth Class(weekly)	Fifth(weekly)	Sixth(weekly)
Maths activity Tables English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spellings Irish Reading/Oral/ Writing/Spelling Activity Optional project work (SESE)	Maths activity Tables English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spellings Irish Reading/Oral/ Writing/Spelling Activity Optional project work (SESE)	Maths activity Tables English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spellings Irish Reading/Oral/ Writing/Spelling Activity Optional project work (SESE)	Maths activity Tables English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spellings Irish Reading/Oral/ Writing/Spelling Activity Optional project work (SESE) Sacrament preparation, prayers etc.

Time Allocation (All classes)

Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. As homework is given on a weekly basis, 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. If homework becomes stressful or protracted, please stop and make the class teacher aware that it was your decision not to complete the homework. However, we welcome your support for homework and request that you encourage your child to do his/her best. Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. There may be other occasions where homework is not assigned.

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.

Ratified by Board of Management at meeting on 18th October 2022.