



# Homework Policy

## Introductory Statement

This homework policy was formulated having first consulted Parents/Guardians, Staff and Pupils. Feedback was sought via surveys from staff, pupils and parents in relation to current homework practices. The information gained from these surveys was of vital importance in helping us devise this policy. We are most grateful for the very many constructive suggestions given in feedback to help improve the quality, relevance and benefits of homework.

## Rationale

This document is intended to provide details of the whole school plan for homework for Navan 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.

## Why is homework given?

- To reinforce 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.

### **How often is homework given?**

Homework is given out on a Monday and should be completed by the end of that week. This allows for flexibility in how homework is completed.

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.

Homework will continue throughout the school year, with the last two weeks of the school year focussing on the wellbeing of the child.

### **What is the content of homework?**

- The content of homework is at the class teacher’s discretion and may regularly contain: reading spellings, tables, written work, drawing/colouring and collecting information/items. However, the weekly homework for all classes will include activities related to Mindful Mondays and Workout Wednesdays.
- Although there is flexibility regarding how homework is completed, we do recommend that reading, spellings and tables be practised every day.
- We aim to make homework meaningful and hope to create learning opportunities for children related to the topic or theme being taught in class. This may include project-based homework, as well as well-being focused activities.
- Homework may contain a mixture of tasks, some of which could be online or offline using the Seesaw app.
- Homework may be differentiated depending on the needs of the child.
- It is likely that written homework will increase as the child reaches the senior end of the school in both English and Irish.
- In the Rainbow Room classes, homework is differentiated for each child. When children are given homework, it may include a range of activities, including: literacy and numeracy, life skills activities or skill development activities directly related to the child’s Individual Education Plan.

### **How much time for homework?**

The following are guidelines for time spent completing 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**

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.

### **How much help should parents/guardians give?**

- Parents/Guardians should provide a suitable place and time for homework to be completed.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help if 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 the case of difficulties with homework, 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.

### **How should parents monitor homework?**

- Homework will be given out on a weekly basis at school and via the Aladdin Noticeboard. Generally, any further communication relating to homework from the teacher will be posted here too or a note will be given to the child to take home. Notes regarding homework will be written in Homework Journals by the child (1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class).
- Children may be required to submit homework directly to their class teacher, or alternatively via Seesaw.

## How do teachers monitor homework?

- Teachers will check homework by 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.
- Teachers will also check that homework is being completed on a regular basis.

## How & when should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- 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.
- Parents are welcome to communicate with the class teacher with any homework related questions or concerns via Aladdin or using the class teacher's email.

## When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, after school activities etc. It is for each family to decide what works best for the child.
- Homework should not be left until morning time before school.

Homework is not designed to be a stressful experience. This can lead to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Signed: *Anthony Mackey*

*Chairperson of Board of Management*

Signed: *Eleanor Barker*

*Principal*

This policy was ratified by the BOM on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2023

The policy was communicated to teachers and will be implemented in all classes.

It is available for the wider school community on our school website or on request through the school office.