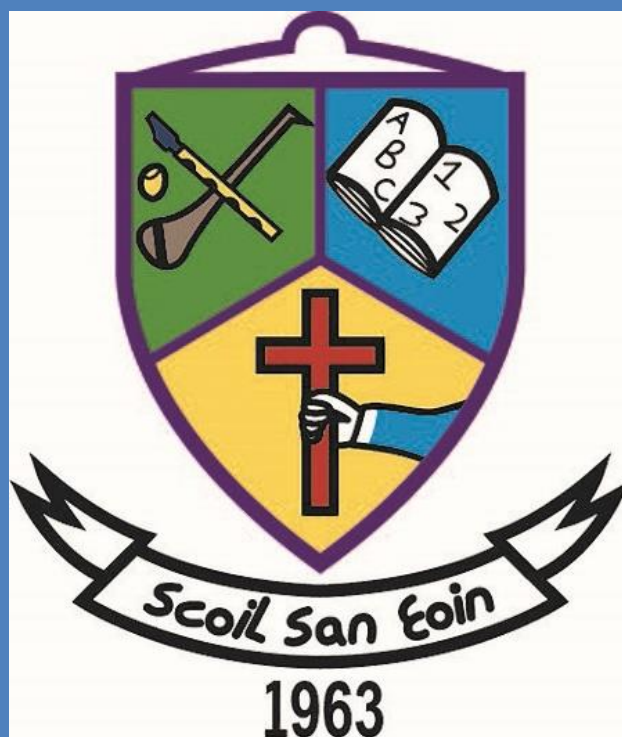


SCOIL SAN EOIN HOMEWORK POLICY



INTRODUCTION

Homework is regarded as an important part of a continuous learning process in Scoil San Eoin, for the following reasons:

- It allows and enables pupils to revisit, revise and consolidate skills and knowledge learned in class.
- It enables pupils to make more progress in their learning.
- It develops the link between parents, family, pupil and teacher.
- It develops skills and methods of study, crucial to success at secondary level and in later life, such as self-discipline, independent working, concentration, organisation and work ethic.
- It enables the teacher to monitor pupil's progress, and along with various other methods of observation and assessment, helps to form an overall profile of a pupil's learning and development.
- This information will form part of the feedback to parents throughout the year, where strategies for improvement may be discussed.

OVERVIEW OF TIME AND FREQUENCY

Homework time and frequency can vary depending on a variety of factors such as class level, ability of pupil and time of the year. Homework is given in Scoil San Eoin from Monday to Thursday, leaving weekends free for family activities. However, there may be exceptions to this where no homework is given, such as:

- Practising for School Concert/Sacraments etc.
- School Tour/Sports Day etc.
- If a substitute teacher is in the classroom for the day.
- If the class teacher uses their discretion for a special occasion and the pupils are given "homework off".
- If a pupil from 3rd to 6th class, receives 3 Green cards for good behaviour, they will receive a homework pass which they can use whenever they please. This entitles them to one night free of **written** homework.

Equally teachers may give homework at weekends if they feel that homework has been neglected during the week and this is causing the pupil to fall behind. Or if, especially in the senior classes, there is project work or research to be undertaken.

The following is a general guideline from the Department of Education, for time allotted to homework at the various class levels. This is intended as a **GUIDE** for both teachers and parents but it is not rigid, and homework times within the same class level, often vary depending on the pupil and the time of year. **N.B.** However, if your child/children are regularly spending way above the guided time to complete their homework, please contact the class teacher immediately.

Junior Infants	10-20 mins
Senior Infants	Up to 25 mins
First Class	Up to 35 mins
Second Class	Up to 40 mins
Third Class	Up to 50 mins
Fourth Class	Up to 1 hour
Fifth Class	Up to 1 hour 10 mins
Sixth Class	Up to 1 hour 20 mins

CONTENT OF HOMEWORK

Generally, homework will contain a balance between reading, learning and written tasks. It will usually consist of some or all of the following:

- Spellings - Irish and English (depending on class level)
- Tables/mental maths.
- Reading (ORT books).
- Written tasks – Answering questions/workbooks/maths problems etc.
- Pieces or information to be ‘learned by heart’ – poetry, prayers etc.
- Drawing/colouring.
- Collecting/researching information – project work, consolidating work through practical tasks.
- Finishing work not completed in class.

CONTENT OF HOMEWORK

A balance of homework of varying types may not always be possible, e.g. during Maths/Science Week. Pupils often feel that reading/learning homework is not real or important homework. We urge parents/guardians to dispel this idea, and form a good routine of listening to reading, spellings and tables nightly.

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Homework provides a means for parents/guardians to link in with what their child is learning and also their learning development. Parents/Guardians also have a responsibility to monitor the completion and standard of homework each evening.

- Each pupil from 1st – 6th class has a **homework journal**. Infant classes receive their homework in a folder each week. **We urge all parents/guardians to check and sign this journal/folder each night** and also to relay any information or questions they have concerning homework, **to the class teacher through email or via See Saw**
- **Since Lockdown and Covid 19 restrictions were put in place, school and Departmental policy is to reduce the number of books etc going between home and school. Therefore, class teachers now give homework for the week on a Monday and the homework folders are to return to school on a Friday with all homework completed. The books etc will then 'isolate' over the weekend. This enables parents/guardians to work with their child and decide a suitable way to divide up the weeks written homework, according to the family's weekly schedule. It is important that all pupils do their learning homework e.g. spellings, poetry, tables every night.**
- Parents/guardians should decide a suitable, regular **time** for the completion of homework, depending on their family situation. It is recommended to complete homework as early as possible, after a short break and snack, and before watching any TV etc.

- Parents/guardians should provide a suitable **area** for completing their homework which is comfortable, clear and away from noise and distractions.
- As stated above, all parents/guardians should **listen** to reading, spellings and learning homework each evening. We encourage parents/guardians to make reading a pleasurable and enjoyable experience for both parties.
- Written homework should be **checked** once completed, with emphasis on neatness, organisation and handwriting, nightly.
- **Parents should check See Saw regularly for classroom updates and link to help with homework etc.**
- **All homework folders should be finally checked on Thursday evening to ensure all work has been completed and all books etc are included to be returned to school on Friday.**

THE ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- If a pupil has difficulty with any part of their homework we advise that parents/guardians help the pupil to overcome the difficulty with further explanations or examples, **but not by doing the homework for the pupil**. If the difficulty cannot be overcome, the parent/guardian should email a note of explanation to the class teacher.
- Homework **should not be a traumatic or stressful** experience for either parents/guardians or pupils. If it does become this, please make an appointment to speak to the class teacher. If we do not know there is a problem, we cannot do something to fix it!
- Where exceptional circumstances prevent the completion of homework, please forward an **explanatory note** to the class teacher via email.

TEACHERS MONITORING HOMEWORK

Since Lockdown and the introduction of Covid 19 restrictions, homework is corrected once a week on a Monday. Teachers are advised to handle pupil books as little as possible, so oral whole group correction is used and then the teacher gives a final check and date stamps the pupils work. This also provides an opportunity for self-assessment and editing for the pupils. Learning homework such as Focail and Frasai, poetry or spellings and tables are assessed on a Friday either orally or in written form. ethic.

SEN PUPILS

Homework will be differentiated as needed for SEN pupils. This may include differentiation in relation to amount of homework, type of homework, no homework in a certain area (Irish exemptions) or using different books to their peers e.g. Maths Masters. There may also be times when SEN pupils are asked to complete tasks at home in relation to resources they utilise in their time in SEN e.g. TTRS, Lexia, Toe-by-Toe. This is to increase their proficiency in an area of Literacy or Numeracy. This may also involve the SEN teacher correcting homework in small groups weekly.

REVIEW OF HOMEWORK POLICY

This policy was updated and ratified in November 2021. It will be referred to regularly by staff members, and will be reviewed bi - annually.

RATIFICATION OF POLICY

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Principal