

Clonmoney National School Homework Policy



Rationale:

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility, and lifelong learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on his/her own to the best of his/her ability. However, there may also be times when homework will require a parent to "work with" their child to complete a task. Homework is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practise and consolidate learning completed in school and, where appropriate, to provide opportunities for creativity and challenge.

Principles of Homework:

Homework is intended to consolidate and reinforce learning that has already taken place in class. It should be purposeful, achievable, and appropriate to the age and stage of the pupils.

While class teachers retain professional autonomy in assigning homework and are best placed to judge the needs of their pupils, a shared and consistent approach across similar class levels is encouraged to ensure clarity and fairness for pupils and parents.

Homework will reflect a balance of written, oral, reading, and learning activities over the course of the week. Not every subject will feature every night, and the nature and format of homework may vary from day to day depending on classroom learning and pupil needs.

How Often Is Homework Given?

Homework is given on **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.**

At the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children may occasionally be given "homework off" as a treat or in recognition of a special occasion.

Homework Content

Homework usually contains a balance of reading tasks, learning tasks, and written tasks. This balance may vary from day to day and from class to class, depending on learning objectives and pupil needs.

Homework may include:

- ❖ Reading in English and/or Irish
- ❖ Spellings and tables
- ❖ Written work in areas such as Mathematics, Literacy, and Gaeilge
- ❖ Learning tasks (e.g. poems, tables, factual information, revision work)
- ❖ Oral language or discussion-based activities
- ❖ Creative tasks such as drawing or colouring, particularly in junior classes and/or project work.
- ❖ Completion of work begun in class, where appropriate

Homework time devoted to reading and learning activities is considered as valuable as time spent on written work.

Homework by Class Level:

While the exact nature of homework is at the discretion of the class teacher, the following broad emphasis applies:

✓ **Junior & Senior Infants**

Homework focuses primarily on oral language, early literacy and numeracy skills, fine motor development, and the establishment of positive homework routines. Activities are short, achievable, and often supported by parental interaction.

✓ **First & Second Classes**

Homework includes reading, spellings, basic written work in English, and learning activities designed to consolidate class learning and promote increasing independence.

✓ **Third & Fourth Classes**

Homework reflects a balance of written work, reading, and learning tasks, with increasing expectations regarding organisation, accuracy, and independent work. 3rd & 4th are usually given short English, Irish & maths written assignments on each homework night.

✓ **Fifth & Sixth Classes**

Homework supports consolidation of learning across curricular areas, the development of study skills, and preparation for post-primary education. Written work, reading, and learning tasks are assigned each day –

Monday to Thursday. 5th & 6th classes are usually given a numeracy (maths) written activity, English writing and Irish writing each homework night, consolidating new learning in class on that day.

Reading:

Children will have reading each night (Monday to Thursday) as part of their homework. This may take the form of a class-level text, an individual ability-based text, or a combination of both.

Reading is assigned in English for Junior and Senior Infants and in both English and Irish from First to Sixth Classes.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that reading books are not damaged and are returned to school each day in good condition. Damaged or lost books must be replaced by parents.

Guidelines for Parents:

Parents are encouraged to:

- ❖ Establish a set routine and time for homework in a quiet place free from distractions
- ❖ Supervise homework, checking and signing it on completion
- ❖ Help and encourage their child without doing the homework for them
- ❖ Forward a note to the teacher if homework has not been completed due to unforeseen circumstances
- ❖ Recognise that independent reading is intended to be an enjoyable activity and is not homework in the traditional sense

Duration of Homework:

The following are general guidelines for time spent on homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent may vary from day to day and throughout the school year. It is the quality rather than the quantity of homework that is important.

- ❖ Junior Infants: 10–15 minutes
- ❖ Senior Infants: 15–20 minutes
- ❖ First & Second Classes: Up to 30 minutes
- ❖ Third & Fourth Classes: 30–45 minutes
- ❖ Fifth & Sixth Class: Approximately 45 minutes

If a child has spent the recommended time working on homework, parents may “sign off” if they feel the work assigned is too difficult or taking excessive time.

Pupils Should:

- ❖ Record homework accurately in homework diaries or ensure they bring home their Homework Sheet (Junior Classes)
- ❖ Bring home all relevant books and materials
- ❖ Complete homework to the best of their ability
- ❖ Present written homework neatly

Parents/Guardians Should:

- ❖ Encourage a positive attitude towards homework
- ❖ Encourage independence and avoid over-helping
- ❖ Support organisation and preparation for homework
- ❖ Agree on a suitable homework time, allowing for play, relaxation, and family time
- ❖ Provide a quiet, suitable workspace free from distractions and screens
- ❖ Encourage good presentation and reasonable effort
- ❖ Sign the homework diary daily
- ❖ Communicate difficulties to the teacher via the homework diary or email

Where appropriate, parents/guardians will be supported in understanding the homework policy and in overcoming any barriers that may affect engagement.

Teachers Should:

- ❖ Assign homework in line with the school’s homework policy
- ❖ Review homework and provide feedback to pupils
- ❖ Monitor homework to help identify pupils experiencing difficulties

When Homework Is Not Completed:

Homework should be completed each night. The school recognises that, on occasion, children may be unable to complete homework due to family commitments or special circumstances. In such cases, parents should provide a note in the homework diary and the child will be excused. This should not occur regularly or on the same day each week.

Where homework is not completed on a regular basis, the teacher will contact parents initially via the homework diary. If difficulties persist, the matter will be referred to the Principal, who may arrange a meeting with parents/guardians.

Distance Learning:

In circumstances where teaching cannot be conducted on the school premises, teachers may use Google Classroom (Third to Sixth Classes).

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- ❖ Grant access where required
- ❖ Monitor their child's participation and online activity

Please note: if a child is absent due to illness, holidays, homework will not be provided via online platforms.

Evaluation:

Homework practices will be evaluated through:

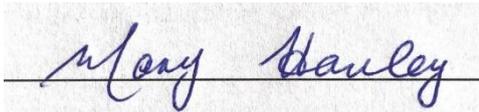
- ❖ In-class corrections
- ❖ Homework diary checks
- ❖ Parent-teacher meetings
- ❖ Teacher observation
- ❖ Pupil profiling
- ❖ Feedback from parents and pupils

Roles and Responsibilities / Implementation

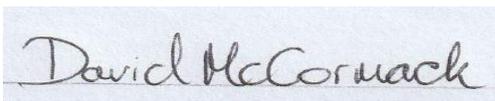
All stakeholders — pupils, parents, teachers, school leadership, and the Board of Management — have a role in the implementation of this policy.

Ratification and Review

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 29.01.2026 and is available to school personnel, parents, and the Parents' Association. It will be reviewed periodically as required.

Signed: 

(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Signed: 

(Principal)

Date: **29th of January 2026**