

Scoil Áine Naofa
Loreto,
An Uaimh,
Co. na Mhí.



St Anne's
Loreto Primary School
Navan,
Co. Meath.

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Homework Policy 2020/21

Homework is an integral part of school life. Homework acknowledges and recognises the role of parents as the primary educator of your child. 'The support of parents who are engaged in their child's learning has a significant positive impact on a child's educational achievement, especially in literacy and numeracy' (DES 2011). It is essential that there is close cooperation between home and school 'if children are to receive the maximum benefit from the curriculum' (NCCA 1999).

1. It is a form of revision of work done in school: it helps to consolidate work done in school. It fosters initiative and develops independent learning skills.
2. It develops a habit of study, which is so important later in Second and Third Level.
3. It is a link between school and home, strengthening the educational partnership between parents and teachers.

To make the most of homework

Arrange a time for your child to do their homework. Check and sign the homework journal/worksheet. If possible have your child do their homework at a table in a quiet atmosphere (turn off the television!!) Homework is given four nights each week Monday to Thursday.

Pupil Absence and Homework.

If a child is absent from school, homework is not assigned by the teacher. When a child is ill they need to be given time to recuperate including time-out to get well enough to return to school at the earliest opportunity. Assigning school work to a sick child to do at home is counter-productive to this issue. If the child is already on the road to recovery, reading is advised to support a swift return to school.

Parents should not absent their child/ren from school to take holidays during school term time. A request for school work will be declined here also as homework is based on lessons instructed from school. Assigning homework in this instance is also counter-productive to the learning and confidence of the child as they have been denied the advantage of the teacher's teaching. The purpose of homework in the first place is to reinforce what the teacher has taught that day.

A general guideline for time spent on homework is:

Junior and Senior Infants: 15mins.	1 st and 2 nd Classes: 15 - 30mins.
3 rd and 4 th Classes: 30 - 45mins.	5 th and 6 th Classes: 45 - 60mins.

- ✓ Homework must be given in line with this Homework Policy and all teachers must keep in mind the needs of each child and assign differentiated homework where appropriate.
- ✓ From time to time, the teacher will ask the children how long their homework is actually taking them and take this into account when setting homework.
- ✓ The teacher will allow adequate time (e.g. project work) when setting homework any night.

- ✓ If children do not complete homework they must explain the reasons why.
- ✓ * Teacher writes a note in the homework journal and parent signs.
- ✓ Teacher will allow a second day for the child to catch up on missed homework. If it's still undone without good reason, * detention will be awarded on Thursday.
- ✓ If the child fails to complete homework repeatedly, parents are contacted via phone call, Noticeboard on Aladdin or by email and requested to support their child with this work or an agreed equivalent. * Homework club is suggested to offer additional support to the child.
- ✓ Teacher may also use a homework tracker to record these individual details.
- ✓ The class earn a reward at teacher's discretion if all pupils have homework complete.
- ✓ 'Active Homework' is very beneficial for the wellbeing of the child e.g. cycling, trampoline, outdoor games, club training etc. and will be assigned at teacher's discretion from time to time.
- ✓ Undone homework may be requested to be completed at the weekend. This is at the teacher's discretion regarding the genuine reasons as to why the homework is undone in the first place. If such homework is still unfinished on the following Monday, * detention will be awarded on the Thursday and parents contacted unless a satisfactory explanation is received and accepted by the school staff as totally unavoidable. A note of this may be placed on the child's file for future reference.

* Due to CoVid 19 public health measures these activities are suspended until further notice.

Homework from the perspective of children advised to restrict their movements.

If a child is advised to restrict their movements (self-isolating) the teacher and / or Special Education Teacher where relevant, will provide an appropriate programme of work reflective of the child's ability. This work will be tailored specifically for the child taking account of the fact that the child has not benefitted from the teachers instructions in class. This work is to be relayed to the child at the parent's discretion taking cognisance of the child's health status.

Distance Learning

We are aware that we may need to engage with further distance learning methods in the event of a further shutdown due to CoVid 19. If this occurs homework may be submitted via the relevant teachers school email address, Aladdin or the SeeSaw Platform. We will keep parents/guardians informed at all times of the public health advice to St. Anne's Loreto Primary School Management for the safe operation of our school and the Community we serve.

Homework is an important part of learning and it is critical you encourage your child to cooperate each evening. If you feel your child is struggling, make an appointment as soon as possible with the class teacher to discuss strategies to help your child to achieve success without any stress.

This Policy was ratified by St. Anne's Loreto Primary School, Board of Management on 17th December 2020

Signed: *Máire O'Donoghue*
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Clíodhna O'Brí*
Principal

Date: 17th December 2020

Date of next review: January 2023