



Lucan Educate Together N.S.

Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework provides the children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practicing the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences. In the senior classes some homework is designed to challenge the children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. The children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability.

Why give homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills
- To develop an independent work ethic, especially in senior pupils
- To help teachers to assess children's understanding of topic when worked at independently.
- Homework is not assigned by teachers as a punishment for behavior of individual children or classes.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given a "Homework Pass" as a reward for reaching an individual or a class target, or as an acknowledgment of a special occasion.

- Please note, extra homework may sometimes be given during the week, or at the weekend, if a child has not completed their classwork or previous night's homework, has not made a suitable effort, or has presented untidy work.

What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between oral tasks, reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. Oral work, learning work and reading are equally as important as written tasks. Parents play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned and in ensuring this work is done well.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items, project work and work started in class.

How much time is recommended for homework?

In keeping with DES recommendations, the following are guidelines for time spent at 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 Infants

No formal homework is given to Junior Infants.

- However, daily practice of all Jolly Phonics sounds covered will reinforce what is being learned in school.
- Encourage any prewriting and informal writing during your child's play by making writing materials available to them.
- Children are sometimes asked to bring in objects or pictures related to class topics. In the 2nd and 3rd terms parents are asked to do shared reading with their children. The children take home books to 'read' with parents and it is recommended that parents read to and with their child on a regular basis.
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Parents are also asked to work with their children on basic sight vocabulary (lists provided by teacher)

Senior Infants

No formal written homework is given in Senior Infants.

Reading to be completed nightly with parent's assistance and supervision.

Reading record to be signed by parents to indicate that it has been done.

Unfinished class work may be sent home to be completed.

Parents are also asked to work with their children on word lists etc.

Encourage informal writing.

First Class

Homework should take: 20 mins.

This is to include oral, reading, written and learning homework.

Second Class

Homework should take: 25-30 mins.

This is to include oral, reading, written and learning homework.

Third Class

Homework should take: 35 mins.

This is to include oral, reading, written and learning homework.

Fourth Class

Homework should take: 40-45 mins.

This is to include oral, reading, written and learning homework.

Homework in 5th and 6th classes is viewed as a form of preparation for homework in Secondary School. Children will often be given homework that will not be requested for a week or more. This will largely be in the form of projects.

Fifth Class

Homework should take: 50-60 mins. This is to include oral, reading, written and learning homework.

Sixth Class Homework should take: 1 hr.

This is to include oral, reading, written and learning homework.

Learning Support

Learning Support teachers may have a special programme of work for those children needing additional support. This programme can be arranged with parents to suit each child's individual needs.

How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Endeavouring to prevent interruptions or distractions to the work, like T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child.
- If a child has substantial difficulty completing a particular task within a reasonable period of time, the task should be left uncompleted so as not to cause frustration and anxiety for the child. A note explaining the difficulty should be given to the teacher so that the problem can be addressed the following day.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. Please encourage and give encouragement for effort for. Its main aim is to foster and encourage a love of books and reading.

How often should parents monitor homework?

- All classes from first class upwards have a homework diary which parents/guardians are required to sign daily.
- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal
- Please check that your child records the homework neatly on the correct page
- Encourage the good practice of ticking each item of homework when it is completed

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Teachers check homework on a regular basis.
- Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may check some items of homework. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

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.

- If the time being spent at homework is consistently longer than the recommended amount of time a meeting should be set up with the class teacher in order to discuss a suitable arrangement for your child.

When should homework be done?

Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh.

Leisure Time Reading

A 2005 survey by the DES highlights the importance of cultivating the habit of independent reading. The following are ways to foster and develop a love of reading in your child

- Encourage children to choose books independently.
- Your child should find reading an enjoyable experience. Allow them to read a wide variety of genres – fiction, non-fiction, picture stories, comic strips, poetry, rhymes, recipes, science facts, etc.
- Talk to your child about their choice of books and be aware of what they are reading in their spare time.
- Remember, pictures and illustrations are part of a story-telling arc and can move plots along. Use these as a way in to discuss a book with your child and develop their language.
- Encourage your child to spend time reading on a regular basis. This should include weekends and holidays.
- Library books should be brought back on the appropriate day. Every child should have a book for silent reading in class and one to read at home. Some children are well able to cope with reading two books concurrently. For others this is too confusing and so they will need help organising themselves for their reading activities.
- Continue reading aloud with your child as long as he or she considers it an enjoyable activity.
- Encourage your child to stick with a book and read it to the end.
- Let your child see you reading.
- Join a public library. Lucan Library has a range of excellent resources to be accessed and used. Being a member opens your and your child's access to all South Dublin County Council libraries also. Their opening times can be found at www.southdublinlibraries.ie Reading introduces us to diverse worlds and thoughts and gives children the opportunity to confront powerful emotional experiences in a safe environment. Reading allows us to share in the experiences of others and to learn from them. The cultivation of a regular reading habit privileges a child with a life enriching habit that will prove both pleasurable and valuable.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Mary Tuohy

Principal

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Tina Stallard

Chairperson B.O.M.

Reviewed February 2016

Next Review February 2018