



KILLEA BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. We as a staff value the importance of a link with the home and parents/guardians. Parents can be involved in, assist and monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to Homework diaries, homework and liaison with teachers. Through this policy we hope to strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Killea Boys National School has been formulated by staff, then endorsed by the board of management and parents.

Rationale

The rationale of the homework policy of the school can be attributed to the following

- Further strengthening of home-school links
- Reinforcing the learning experienced by the child during the school day
- Ensuring clarity as to the recommended time to be spent on homework.

Relationship to School Ethos

It is the policy of the school to identify all the needs of the pupil and put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs.

The school also encourages the active involvement of parents working with their children and also in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently.

We understand that in the one on one communication at home, talking, listening, reasoning and questioning can be enriching for the child.

The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of the policy are:

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of the class work
- To enable the children develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- To enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable to foster self-discipline and study skills
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes
- To further develop links between home and school
- Homework is generally based on class related work or work already covered in class. It should contain a balance between reading, learning and writing. Time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- The assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of pupils are also taken into account.
- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at weekends unless exceptional circumstances such as projects, book week (or spelling corrections) occur.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally child/ren are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked/behaved well.
- The Learning Support Teachers will give homework to their allocated pupils but only as a reinforcement of class work. Reading is routinely given as homework and should be accorded priority consideration.
- If homework causes stress and worry to the child, parents/guardians are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. If homework cannot be completed on a particular night, parents are asked to forward a written note.

- Teachers check homework on a daily basis, some homework may be self correcting. Children who do not complete homework satisfactorily will be required to re do this work during lunch break. Parents are advised to supervise and check homework nightly.
- All children from first class up have a homework diary which parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.
- “Homework Off” may be given at a teachers discretion. In general, all school homework will encompass a wide spectrum of learning experiences such as reading, writing, tables, spelling, learning “by heart” drawing, collecting information, colouring and finishing class work.

Library Reading Initiative

In order to improve, support and encourage reading skills and to nurture enjoyment of quiet reading, new graded books have been purchased for the library, both fiction and non-fiction. This library reading will be an integral part of the nightly homework routine in our school. Five minutes nightly will be the minimum time-required. Each morning pupils will have access to change books. Parents will be required to help monitor this programme by signing that the reading is actually being done. The emphasis will be on reading for enjoyment rather than acquiring new skills. Our aim is to produce confident readers who can evaluate and recognise the benefits of the initiative for themselves.

Procedures for Parents

1. Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
2. Remove distractions – TV, younger siblings etc.
3. Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
4. Parents should not do the homework for their children.
5. Send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises. This can be done through the homework diary.
6. Check and sign homework diaries.
7. Notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
8. As children tire towards late evening, encourage the completion of homework as early as possible.
9. Discourage morning homework.
10. Parents should encourage the child to leave their ruler, pencil, rubber back in the same place each evening after completing their homework.

Resources

- Homework Diary
- Work Sheets, textbooks, folders, exercise copies
- ICT
- Pencil/pen/colours
- Eraser/ruler

Policy Content

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good study habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. The following are the maximum allocations for our school:

Junior Infants – 0-15

In the first term children are given one sound to learn each night. After Christmas the children will learn how to form letters and letter formation will be given for homework. They will also be given the words from their reader to practice at home. It is recommended that parents read to and with their children on a regular basis.

Senior Infants – 0-15 minutes

Reading and/or occasional worksheets, writing a sentence. The school attempts to maintain a balance between oral, reading and written work. After Christmas the children will learn how to form capital letters and letter formation will be given for homework. They will also be given the words from their reader to practice at home. Paired reading is encouraged in infant classes.

First/Second Class 0-30 minutes All subjects

Third/Fourth Class 0-45 minutes All subjects

Fifth/Sixth Class 60 – 75 minutes All subjects

Evaluation

- In-class corrections
- Checking homework diaries
- Parent-teacher meetings
- Teacher designed tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback from parents and pupils

Roles and Responsibilities/Implementation

All stakeholders have a role to play in the implementation of this policy from pupils/parents right up to the Board of Management. The principal has the overall responsibility for the reviewing of the policy.

Ratification/Communication

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management in and communicated to all parents.

References

The Essential Parents Guide to the Primary School Years – Brian Gilsean..

Your Child in the Primary School – INTO.

Your Child’s Learning – DES Primary School Curriculum.