

Largy N.S. Homework Policy

The Board of Management of Largy N.S. recognises homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers. Homework provides the children with the opportunity of revisiting learning experiences encountered during the school day and of practising the skills and concepts associated with those learning experiences.

Largy N.S. seeks to enable each pupil to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their learning.

Aims

In general, the broad aims of this homework policy are to:

- promote the use of homework to consolidate learning and work being done at school. However at times, homework may be more challenging and provide opportunities for creativity.
- promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework
- keep parents in touch and involved in their child's / children's education
- encourage children to become more independent learners and to revise, reinforce, finish work that has begun in school.
- enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- enhance self-esteem through the provision of a work menu that is doable
- further develop links between home and school

Assigning Homework

- It is recommended that children are encouraged to sit down every evening in a quiet place, away from distraction, to do their homework
- All classes from Junior Infants to Sixth are assigned homework from Monday to Thursday. Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not completed their homework, has not made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work.
- Involves project work (this applies to Senior Classes in particular)
- Occasionally at the discretion of the Class Teacher or the Principal, pupils are given a night 'off homework' as a treat or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion/event in the school.
- Where pupils are receiving additional support from a member of the SEN Team the class teacher and SEN Teacher will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.

Content of Homework

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and “learning by heart” is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

Time Allocation

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different pupils will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent can vary from day to day and from one end of the school year to another. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that is important. The following are guidelines for time spent on homework

Junior Infants: up to 20 Mins

Senior Infants: up to 20 Mins

Rang 1 up to 30 Mins.

Rang 2 up to 30 Mins.

Rang 3 up to 45 Mins.

Rang 4 up to 45 Mins.

Rang 5 up to 50 Mins.

Rang 6 up to 60 Mins.

Expectations of Pupils

It is expected that pupils will:

- Write their homework in their homework journal
- Take home all the necessary books, copies and equipment to complete the homework.
- Return their homework on time
- Complete and present their homework to the best of their ability
- Appreciate that study tasks and learning spellings and tables are as important as written tasks.
- Bring a note to school explaining why a task is incomplete, if homework has not been completed.

Role of Parents/Guardians

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child's approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and that you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

- Parents can help their child with their homework by providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework, away from distractions and interruptions.
- The child should be encouraged to do written homework themselves and parents should only help if the child is having difficulty.
- In the Junior classes, parents are encouraged to assist their child with his/her homework. As the child progresses to the Senior classes, it is envisaged that he/she develops more independence and the parents' role becomes increasingly supervisory and supportive.
- Informal reading is encouraged. It is an enjoyable exercise between the parent and the child.
- Children should be encouraged to work through their homework and tick each item of work when completed.
- Remember that time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Parents should communicate with the child's class teacher when a child cannot understand or complete some aspect of the homework.
- Parents should ensure that all homework is completed, is neatly presented and in keeping with the required standard, checking and signing the homework journal on completion each night.
- If homework causes stress or worry to the child, parents are encouraged to convey these anxieties to the class teacher. All children from first to sixth have a homework diary that parents are required to sign. The homework diary acts as a means of communication between class teacher and parent.
- Parental interest and positive affirmation is to be encouraged as it motivates the child to work to the best of his/her ability. 'Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí!'

Role of the Teacher

- Assign homework.
- Teachers like to check homework on a daily basis.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Children themselves under the direction of the teacher may check some items of homework (and classwork). This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

Sanctions

If a child has not completed all of their homework, a note should be provided by their parent. A teacher will always use his/her discretion when implementing a sanction, taking due regard for issues surrounding the matter, the regularity of such an occurrence etc.

At the teacher's discretion, the task will be completed to a satisfactory standard at home or during part of Golden Time

A child may be given constructive extra homework – this is in line with the school's Code of Behaviour. Please see Behaviour Policy for details.

Success Criteria

The success criteria of this policy will be determined by feedback from parents, pupils and teachers. Feedback from parents will be sought at parent-Teacher meetings during the first term.

In general where pupils are handing in satisfactory exercises and assignments, reading and memorizing activities are well practised, this will be interpreted as reflecting positively on this policy.

Review and Ratification

This policy was reviewed in _____

The BOM ratified the AUP on _____

_ Signed: _____ Chairperson, BoM

Next review date: _____