

Garrydoolis National School Homework Policy

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through homework.

Rationale

It is important to have a homework policy to promote a positive home/school communication. As a school we appreciate the benefit of homework to the child's learning. An important element of Garrydoolis National School's ethos is to fulfil every child's individual potential. Homework encourages each child to work independently and take responsibility for their own assignments.

Aims

Through the homework policy the school hopes to achieve the following:

- To develop skills and self discipline that will be of benefit to children in order to enhance learning.
- To reinforce work done in class-it allows for revision and practice.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a positive work ethic.
- To promote consistency and a similar approach to homework across all classes.
- To provide a link between the teacher and the parents.
- To create a positive attitude to homework.

Guidelines

Homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks, which vary from class level to class level. Differentiated homework will be provided as required based on a child's individual abilities and circumstances.

Assigning Homework:

Junior and Senior Infants

First and Second Classes

Third, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Classes

Time

The following are general guidelines only.

- Junior and Senior Infants- 15 minutes
- First and Second Classes- 20-25 minutes
- Third and Fourth Classes- 30-40 minutes
- Fifth and Sixth Classes- 40-50 minutes

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given homework off

as a treat or as an acknowledgement of special occasions.

Homework Survey

As we are continuously reviewing and evaluating our educational practice, we wished to examine homework in our school by means of a questionnaire which was distributed in September 2019. We welcomed the views of parents, staff and students on our homework practice. Results were analysed and may be found in appendices 1 and 2.

Checking Homework

Teacher's check homework on a daily basis and corrected work is returned to pupils. If homework is not completed satisfactorily, the teacher will speak with the child. In the event of homework consistently not being completed, the class teacher discusses this with the parent(s).

Pupils

Pupils are expected to take all books and copies necessary to complete homework home each day. They are encouraged to complete their homework under the supervision of their parent(s).

Parents/Guardians

Guidelines for parents/guardians

1. Provide suitable comfortable facilities.
2. Remove distractions – T.V. younger siblings etc.
3. Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
4. Parents/guardians should not do the homework for their children – parents/guardians should send a note to the class teacher if a problem arises.
5. Parents/guardians should notify the class teacher if time spent on homework exceeds the recommended time.
6. Parents/guardians should have a stock of rulers, pencils, rubbers, etc. available should the need arise.
7. Should homework be too difficult for a child, parents/guardians are recommended to help the child to complete what they are capable of doing. Different homework can be arranged if there are persistent difficulties.
8. Should homework not be challenging enough, parents/guardians are encouraged to extend their child's learning through the use of extra books, library visits, and interactive websites.
9. If homework is not completed a note of explanation must be sent to the class teacher.
10. Parents are asked to sign their child(ren)'s homework journal/s daily to confirm that homework has been completed by the child.

Roles and Responsibilities

Class teachers have responsibility for setting, correcting and returning the homework. The children are responsible for taking the homework home and parents/guardians are

responsible for supervising and aiding the completion of homework and for signing homework journals.

This policy will be reviewed and updated as necessary in accordance with the needs of the pupils/school and requirements of the Department of Education and Science.

Implementation Date

This policy is currently being implemented. Updated September 2019.

Ratification & Communication

This policy was ratified by the Board of management on _____.

Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management

Appendix 1

Garrydoolis N.S. Homework Survey for Parents, September 2019

Response: 21/21 families

1. Do you believe that homework is an important part of school life?

Yes: 19

No: 0

(No response : 1, Both yes and no: 1)

2. Homework is an important part of school life because...

It reinforces work begun in school: 19

It raises children's attainment: 2

It keeps parents informed about their child's progress: 8

It helps develop independence in working: 11

Other...

Homework gives kids responsibility and a work ethos, lessens time on screens, develops their learning and knowledge, informs parents regarding the topics being covered in school, helps to prepare children for the workload that comes with secondary school

3. Homework is not an important part of primary school life because...

Children spend long enough in school and do not need to work at home: 2

Homework cuts into family life at home: 5

Homework can cause friction and anxiety at home: 7

As a parent, I have difficulty helping my child as homework is now done differently than in my time: 2

2 disagreed with the above statement.

Other...

Work not finished in school being sent home causes upset and adds an extra load for the child, the issue is the volume of homework, homework creates a nice time during which to engage with the child and be part of what goes on in school, sometimes maths causes an issue as parent does them totally differently to the teacher, when a child is sick homework should not be required, but rather notification of the work missed would be good

4. The amount of time which my child spends on homework is...

Too little Just right:13 Too much: 9

(Just right and Too much both marked on one survey)

5. Which of the following do you do every night?

Listen to my child's reading: 18

Help my child to practice spellings: 18

Help my child consolidate number facts/ tables: 13 (+1 sometimes)

Support my child's project work: 14

Sign my child's homework sheet/ homework diary: 20

6. What is your child's attitude towards homework?

Very Positive:1 Positive:8 Neutral:5 Negative: 9 Very Negative:0

7. What is your attitude as a parent towards homework?

Very positive:1 Positive:14 Neutral:4 Negative:2 Very Negative:0

8. How often does your child need help with homework?

Never:2 Sometimes:10 Often:5 Always:9

9. Does homework cause tension or anxiety at home?

Never:3 Sometimes:13* Often:5 Always:3

*when work not finished or catch up work from sick days is added to homework

Appendix 2

Garrydoolis N.S. Homework Survey for Senior Pupils, September 2019

1. Do you think that homework is important?

Yes: 6 No: 12

2. What do you think about the amount of homework you get?

About Right: 4 Too Much: 14 Too Little

3. Do you find your homework...

Too difficult: 3 Too easy About right: 15

4. Which types of homework do you need to become a successful learner?

Spelling:9 Writing:8 Maths:10 Irish:3 Reading:6 Projects:4 Other:2

Art

5. Do you always know what you have to do for homework?

Always:9 Most of the time:6 Sometimes:3 Never

6. Do you get help with your homework?

Always:4 Sometimes:13 Never:1

7. Do you behave and do your homework without any problems?

Always:9 Sometimes:8 Never:1

8. How would you prefer your homework to be given out?

Daily:16 Weekly:2