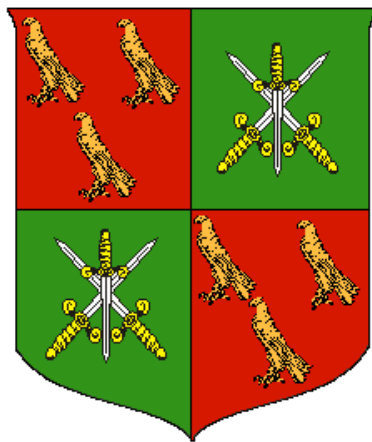


Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain



Homework Policy

2023

“ *There is no possible way...
a student can learn
everything mentioned in a
class without reinforcing the
subject...* ”

Lew Levine, Clearwater, Florida

Introduction

Children who complete homework tasks each day are learning valuable skills which will be advantageous to them through later life. At Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain we believe that Homework can:

- effectively extend the time that children spend on learning
- provide children with opportunities to reach higher levels of attainment and to make greater progress
- enhance and extend children's learning
- support the attitude that learning is not confined to the classroom
- improve the links between home and school by bridging gaps between the two by highlighting for children and parents the importance of learning at home.

Research evidence indicates that when children, teachers and parents take homework seriously, children's work improves and standards are raised. Therefore, children who do homework have a real advantage in their learning.

Entitlement

In Bunscoil Mhic Reachtain we expect that pupils will complete all homework tasks. As parents you will be asked to support your child in some or all of the following ways. If, however, any part of the homework is causing frustration, please simply close the books, contact we ask parents to simply close the books and allow the children

1. Check regularly that homework tasks are being set by school and are completed by children.
2. Work alongside children to help with spellings, handwriting, punctuation and ideas.
3. Allow time for work to be completed.
4. Hear your child read and/or read to your child.
5. Ask questions about books that have been read, topics covered at school, visits made, club activities etc.
6. Give your children opportunities to practise their maths skills.
7. Encourage children to persevere with challenging tasks.
8. Inform the school when problems arise.

Implementation

Pupils will:

- Complete each homework task in the time allowed and hand it in to the teacher on time.
- Produce the best work they possibly can.
- Know that help will be given in school if it is needed.

Teachers will:

- Set homework regularly. Teachers appreciate the time taken to complete homework tasks and will mark and / or comment on each piece of work.

- Make arrangements for any missed homework to be done.
- Explain any homework to children who have tried but found it difficult, so that work can be completed and handed in on time. Children can ask advice from any teacher.
- Give sufficient time for all tasks to be completed.

School will:

- Inform parents if a child falls behind with homework, since this will be a serious disadvantage to the child.

Foundation (R1 & R2) & Key Stage 1 (R3 & R4)

Homework activities support successful learning. The activities or tasks which the youngest children bring home are designed, wherever possible, to invite parental interest and involvement. Homework activities for children at this developmental stage will take into account:

- The importance of developing reading, writing and numeracy skills.
- Exploration of other curriculum topics.
- The need for clear, regular and achievable tasks and monitoring.
- The full potential range of partnership by parents.
- The additional needs of some children for extra help.

For the youngest children, homework should take no more than 10-15 minutes and will always consist of work already covered by the children. For children in R4-7, homework should last no longer than 20-30 mins.

A combination of two or three of the following may be given Monday-Thursday:

- a. Language / Spelling work
- b. Basic numeracy
- c. Reading with a parent (in English/Irish/other home languages)
- d. Handwriting exercises (when needed)
- e. Practical tasks
- f. Story retelling
- g. Songs and rhymes
- h. Any piece of suggested work from the school's list of Homework Activities

Homeworks will always have explanatory notes in English to help parents/guardians.

Importantly, if a homework is causing any frustration on the part of a child / parent, please put it away and take a walk with your child.

Key Stage 2 (Years 5–7)

Our homework planning for children at this key stage will:

- Maintain the emphasis on raising levels of attainment in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Enable pupils to master key skills, for example, communication.
- Encourage pupils to become independent learners.
- Prepare pupils for future learning.

Ideally, homework for this age group should last between 20-30 mins max.

Reading

We recommend that reading takes place every day. Reading can involve parents in listening, discussing characters or plot; asking questions and helping a child to know sounds and punctuation. Parents may borrow reading books on request.

Spelling (English & Irish)

Please encourage your child to practice spellings daily. From Rang 3 onwards your child’s teacher will correct your child’s spelling test score and highlight any words that need further practise.

No work in Irish will be sent home as homework unless it has been completed already in school and is a reinforcement of previous learning.

Dissemination Of The Policy

All staff members and school governors will receive a copy of this policy. It will also be available in hard copy on request and on the school website.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The policy will be reviewed, and amended annually. Any relevant comments from new research/learning will also be included in the evaluation and review process.

Signed: (Principal) **Date**

..... (On behalf of the Board of Governors)