

Four Masters National School

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an integral link between school and home. Parents can monitor their child's progress through continual reference to homework diaries and liaison with teachers.

Rationale

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

Aims and Objectives

- To consolidate learning through reinforcement of class work.
- To enable children develop a sense of responsibility and independence.
- To foster self-discipline and study skills.
- To promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all classes.
- To develop links between school and home.

Resources

- Homework diary
- Whiteboard
- Work sheets, Text Books, folders, copies etc.
- I.T.

Policy Content

It is school policy to assign appropriate class-related levels of homework as an important reinforcement in the learning process. Good habits are fostered, independent learning is promoted and self-discipline is developed. Homework is normally given at the end of the school day.

The following table advises appropriate times that homework might take

Infants	Less than 15 minutes.
First/Second class	15 - 30 minutes.
Third/Fourth class	30 - 45 minutes.
Fifth/Sixth class	45 - 60 minutes.

Note: Some subjects such as English, Irish, may have more emphasis on oral work. Oral homework is just as beneficial as written homework. Homework is mostly based on class-related work i.e. revision of what has been taught. It attempts to keep a balance between reading, writing and learning. Homework is differentiated for the more and less able pupils.

- Homework is given from Mondays to Thursdays and generally is not given at the weekends unless exceptional work like projects is expected.
- Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children are rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked and behaved well.
- Reading is routinely given and should be a priority.
- If homework cannot be completed on a given night, a written notice should be forwarded to the teacher.
- Incomplete homework may have to be finished by the child at break times in school corridor, outside of staffroom.
- Parents/Guardians should supervise and check homework nightly.

Procedures for Parents/Guardians

The table outlining rough time guidelines only operates successfully when children are working in a suitable environment.

- Remove distraction – TV, radios, mobile phone etc.
- Help child overcome difficulties through explanation.
- Do not do your child's homework.
- Send a note in homework diary (or other) if a problem arises.
- Check and sign homework diaries if requested by teacher.
- Discourage morning homework.

Correction of Homework:

- In class correction
- Checking homework diaries
- Parent-Teacher meetings
- Class Tests
- Pupil profiling
- Teacher observation
- Feedback

Homework and holidays

It is school policy not to allocate or prepare homework for children who are on holiday during school time. We do not assign work for children for their holidays, nor set catch up work for them on their return. It is our policy to discourage pupils from taking holidays during term time. If a child is absent for twenty or more days in the school year, we are

obliged to contact the National Welfare Board. Parents / Guardians of children who are sick for an extended period / hospitalized should talk with the class teacher.

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on:

Signed: Finola Furey

Date: 03/03/2020

Chairperson Board of Management

Date of next review: March 2022