

**DROM NATIONAL SCHOOL
SCHOOL POLICY PLANNING**

**HOMEWORK
POLICY**

HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION:

This policy was drafted by the whole staff in consultation with the Board of Management to clarify the rationale for giving homework and to provide guidance to staff and parents / guardians regarding homework provision and completion.

RATIONALE FOR HOMEWORK

- To re-inforce what the student learns during the day
- To provide a link between the class teacher and parents / guardians
- To develop a student's concentration skills and develop a work ethic

Homework should be achievable by a student, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge students' ability and provide opportunities for creativity. Students are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability.

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 1. If homework has been neglected during the week
 2. In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
- On occasion, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are not given homework as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

HOMEWORK CONTENT

- 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, rote learning exercises, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class
- Students often feel that reading and learning homework is not important. Parents can play a vital role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

GUIDELINES FOR TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 1 hour
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour 15 minutes

Rang 6

Up to 1 hour 30minutes

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.

PARENTAL HELP / GUIDANCE

- Parents / Guardians should try to help their children with homework by:
 1. Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
 2. To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents / guardians should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents / guardians should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent / guardian should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent / guardian and child.

MONITORING HOMEWORK: PARENTS / GUARDIANS

- Parents / Guardians should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

MONITORING HOMEWORK: TEACHERS

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day
- 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
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS REGARDING HOMEWORK

Parents / Guardians should contact the school in the following circumstances:

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

WHEN SHOULD HOMEWORK BE COMPLETED

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school

NOTE

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

RATIFICATION:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 21st March 2017.

The policy will be available on the school website and through the office.

It will be reviewed every 3 years and amended if necessary.

IMPLEMENTATION

This policy will be implemented following ratification by the Board of Management.

Date of next review: September 2018