

Homework Policy for Scoil Bhríde

Aims and Rationale

There has been considerable debate on whether homework has any benefit to children in primary schools. There are many families who wish for their children to have homework for a number of reasons. Following consultation with staff and the Parents' Association, this policy has been developed. The aims and rationale for homework in Scoil Bhríde are:

- Preparation for second level
- Consolidating work done in school
- Families know what their child is learning in school
- Homework must be meaningful
- Homework must be differentiated
- There should be an element of choice given in homework for Parents/Guardians, that is:
 - A choice insofar as not everyone is expected to do the same work
 - A choice of when to do the homework
- Reading should always form part of homework
- Parents/Guardians should be aware of the work being covered in class

How often is homework given?

Homework is often set at the beginning of the week in the homework journal, Aladdin, Seesaw, folder or homework copy. However, some teachers may set homework on a more regular basis.

Homework is not set for the months of September or June. Written homework, every other month, is set for Monday-Wednesday with a choice of reading/written/oral/wellbeing activities on Thursdays.

What will be assigned for homework

The following list is a sample of activities which may be assigned to pupils. This list is not exhaustive:

- Literacy homework e.g., spelling strategies, reading, phonics, comprehension activities, written activities
- Numeracy homework e.g., revision of concepts covered in class, mental maths strategies, tables, problem solving activities
- Subject specific homework e.g., History project, Religion activities
- Wellbeing activities (Thursdays, month of December, Positive Week) e.g., physical activities, help out at home, random act of kindness, Advent activities
- Flipped Classroom activities e.g., Senior classes may be asked to research a topic in advance of the teacher covering it in class.
- Self-led learning activities e.g., Pupils may be asked to research and develop an area of interest and present their findings to their peers.

Duration of 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 suggestions per night:

- Infants - Up to 15 minutes
- Rang 1 and 2 - Up to 30 minutes
- Rang 3 and 4 - Up to 45 minutes
- Rang 5 and 6 - Up to 60 minutes

If a child is spending longer than the recommended time, Parents/Guardians should encourage the child to discontinue the homework. Parents/Guardians should send a notice on Aladdin to inform the teacher.

When should Parents/Guardians contact the teachers about homework?

- If the child has a problem with homework, please put a note in the journal or contact the teacher
- If difficulties persist e.g. work is taking too long.

Implementation Date

- This policy will be implemented immediately on 9th October 2024.

Ratification & Communication

- This Homework Policy for Scoil Bhríde was reviewed and approved by the Board of Management on 08/10/2024
- Once ratified, the policy will be communicated to the entire school community. This will be done through multiple channels to ensure all stakeholders are informed:
 - **Parents/Guardians** will receive a copy of the policy via email and through the Aladdin platform. It will be available on the school website also.
 - **Teachers and staff** will be briefed on the policy during a staff meeting to ensure consistent implementation across all classes. The policy will be made available on Aladdin.
 - **Students** will be introduced to the policy in class, with teachers explaining its key points in age-appropriate language. Older students will be encouraged to take an active role in understanding their homework choices.

This policy will be reviewed periodically, with feedback from the school community considered for any necessary amendments.

Signed: Mary Ledwith (Chairperson) Date: 09/10/2024

Signed: Sandra Grennan (Principal) Date: 09/10/2024