

Policy Document No. 5

O'Growney National School

Homework

Aims:

- To develop study skills and self-discipline in order to enhance learning
- To encourage each child to become an independent learner and to revise, reinforce and finish work that has begun in school
- To promote consistency and a similar approach to homework across all classes
- To strengthen links and communication between home and school
- To challenge the child's ability and provide opportunities for creativity

Homework:

- ❖ Homework generally consolidates work which has already been done in class.
- ❖ The amount of time spent doing homework varies. The following are *general* guidelines only:

Junior / Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
1st / 2nd Classes	Up to 30 minutes
3rd / 4th Classes	Up to 60 minutes
5th / 6th Classes	Up to 90 minutes
- ❖ The time spent on homework will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year.
- ❖ All assigned homework should be written in the child's journal. It is the child's responsibility to have his/her homework taken down each day. This may be required to be signed by a parent/guardian each night.
- ❖ Parents are requested to check that it is neatly executed and fully completed. A signed note in the child's journal must be sent to the class teacher, if for some reason homework cannot be completed.
- ❖ Normally, no homework is given at weekends.
- ❖ On occasions no homework is given, at the discretion of the class teacher.
- ❖ Children with learning difficulties will be given differentiated homework.
- ❖ Tables and spellings will be given nightly from First to Sixth Classes.
- ❖ Homework given will be corrected by the class teacher, self-corrected or in certain circumstances "peer" corrected.
- ❖ Continuous failure to do homework will lead to a "caution" or more serious "Misbehaviour sheet" being sent home.

Tables:

- ✓ All Classes from 1st - 6th will do tables as part of mental/oral maths.
- ✓ A tables test will be carried out once a week.
- ✓ We will look for speed in response to tables in 3rd - 6th classes.

Spellings:

- ✓ Spellings are part of nightly homework from First to Sixth classes.
- ✓ Irish spellings are generally given each night as part of homework from 2nd to 6th classes.
- ✓ Weekly tests are given in Irish and English spellings.

Guidelines for Parents/ Guardians:

- Set aside a quiet regular time and proper conditions for doing homework. Make sure that electronic devices such as televisions, laptops, mobile phones, radios etc. are not part of the homework routine.
- Where possible, make sure that homework is completed as soon after school as possible.
- Encourage your child to keep copies neat and tidy and to complete work to the best of their ability.
- As your child gets older, he / she will work more independently. However, it is important that you are available for assistance with problems.
- If your child has persistent problems or is unable to complete work for any reason, parents are asked to send a note in the homework journal to the class teacher.
- 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.

Review and Monitoring:

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents' Association and is readily available to parents on request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron, if requested. This policy will be monitored and reviewed annually by the Board of Management.

Policy ratified by the Board of Management on Monday, 15th June, 2016.