



Inver National School Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

This homework policy was drawn up by the Principal in conjunction with the class teachers. This policy was circulated to parents, where feedback was sought and taken into consideration. A questionnaire was also circulated to parents and students and responses given were also considered when preparing the final draft of this policy.

Rationale

We, in Inver National School, have developed this homework policy in order:

- *To promote positive home/school communication.*
- *To provide guidelines for staff regarding the giving of homework.*
- *To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning.*
- *To address concerns parents and teachers have had with the time being spent on homework by some pupils.*
- *To review our existing homework policy.*

Why give homework?

1. It encourages the discipline of practice.
2. It gives parents an insight into the child's life at school.
3. It teaches time management skills.
4. Homework creates a communication network between home and school.

5. It allows for a comfortable place to study and also allows the child to communicate any problems and ask for help away from their peers.
6. It provides more time to complete the learning process by reinforcing concepts taught in school

Content of our Homework policy

Assigning homework:

- All classes from Senior Infants upwards are given written homework and oral homework, with Junior Infants being assigned oral homework and some written homework in the final term of school.
- Not all pupils in a class get the same homework as provision is made for children with special needs. He/she may be given similar work from another source, differentiated worksheets etc.
- Children in the learning support class will not be given written homework.
- Any night that homework is given, reading, spellings, tables and other oral based homework will be given. A variety of tasks, ranging from written work, project research, hands-on activities and such like may be assigned as written work.
- In the Senior Room, when children are awarded a homework pass, they may choose to use this for a night to gain exemption from written homework. This is negotiated between the child and their class teacher.
- Homework is seen as a reinforcement of work done in class, and is assigned either following a lesson or at the end of the day. Homework is properly explained to the children in advance.

- Homework is assigned daily, Monday to Thursday, with Friday generally being homework free.

Tips for pupils and parents when completing Homework

1. Work on one subject at a time and only use the book, workbook, sheet etc needed for that work - with all others remaining in their school bag (Bite size pieces)
2. When a child begins to struggle with the subject do not spend more time on it at present, but move on to another subject. (Avoid frustration and feeling of inadequacy)
3. Only spend a maximum of the following time on homework in total: Junior Infants - 10mins Senior Infants - 20 mins 1st & 2nd Classes: 30min 3rd & 4th Classes: 40mins and 5th & 6th Classes - 50-55mins. (Avoid stress and tiredness)
4. After completing other subjects the child should review the problem work again to see if they can now do it, but only if there is time.
5. At the end of the applicable time allocation leave any work that remains unfinished.
6. Any and all problems during homework should be noted in the child's homework journal. This will be noted by the teacher and then either reviewed in class or by the S.E.T.

How much time should be spent on homework?

The following is a guideline for time spent on homework.

Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time.

The following are general guidelines only:

- Junior Infants - *up to 10 mins*
- Senior Infants - *up to 20 mins*
- First and Second Classes: - *up to 30 mins*
- Third and Fourth Classes – *up to 40 mins*
- Fifth and sixth classes – *up to 50/55 mins*

Homework journal:

- All classes have a homework diary. This diary will be purchased from the school with the other school books at the beginning of the school year.
- Parents are expected to check homework and sign the homework diary every night.
- Homework journals will be handed to the class teacher along with their homework, and every effort will be made to check homework daily if appropriate.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The following people who have particular responsibilities for aspects of the policy in this school are the pupils themselves, their parents/ guardians, class teachers, the principal and the support teacher.

The Principal:

- The Principal along with class teachers will continue to monitor the implementation of this policy and will review this policy when needed.
- The Principal will ensure that this policy is circulated to all school staff, parents/guardians at the beginning of the school year.

Class Teachers:

- Class teachers understand that the amount of homework given to each child may differ. They will ensure that as far as is possible that each child has sufficient homework to engage him/her for the required time.
- Class teachers will endeavour to check written homework daily.
- The class teacher will keep a record of homework not done or left at home on a regular basis.
- In general, neat, well done homework is rewarded with merits [stickers, homework passes]. Credit is given for effort as well as for achievement.
- If homework is particularly careless and untidy, children may be asked to re-do work. This will be communicated to the parents via the homework journal.
- Any and all problems during homework that have been noted in the child's homework journal will be addressed by the class teacher or the S.E.T.

Support Teacher (S.E.T):

The S.E.T will support class teachers in addressing any problems which may arise during homework.

Pupils:

- The pupil's responsibility in relation to the homework s/he is given is that it is written neatly and to the best of his or her ability.
- If the child is experiencing problems with his/her homework, s/he should ask a parent/guardian for assistance, and the adult should make a note of the problem in the homework diary regarding the problem/s encountered. Pupils will be made aware of this at the beginning of the school year, and reminded of this frequently throughout the year.

Parents/Guardians:

- The school homework policy will be distributed to all new parents. Tips for establishing effective study routines, how to monitor homework, standard of work expected, amount of time homework should take to complete etc.
- At the start of each academic year, guidelines on study skills, tables and spellings strategies and reading and phonics strategies will be communicated to parents and pupils.
- If there are difficulties with homework, parents should be aware of the following procedures:
 - the parent should not do the homework for their child /children
 - they should try to provide further explanation or do easier examples with their child/children
 - they should write a note in the homework journal explaining the problem that arose.
 - Teachers will endeavour to respond to the parents' concerns in the homework journal, and if necessary by a phone call or in a meeting with the parents.

Success Criteria:

We, in Inver National School, will deem this policy effective by the following criteria:

- Feedback from the teachers regarding standards of work received from the pupils

- Feedback from the pupils regarding difficulty / ease of completion of homework.
- Feedback from the parents regarding time taken to complete homework, and the communication between teachers and parents through the homework journal system.

Implementation Date:

These procedures will apply from the beginning of the 2021/22 academic year, and will be subject to review at the end of this school year.

Ratification and Review:

Pending this review, and amendments if necessary, the policy will be subject to review in 2025.

