

SUNCROFT NATIONAL SCHOOL

Policy Number: 28 - HOMEWORK POLICY

REV: 3

Why is Homework Important?

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

1. It re-opens what the child learns during the day.
2. It provides a link between teacher and home.
3. It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of a teacher or other pupils, and thereby develops concentration skills and a work ethic. This way of working is vital at the later stages of education in secondary school and at third level colleges.
4. It can help pupils to make rapid progress in learning.

When is Homework given?

We have a policy whereby each class teacher sets homework each night, Monday to Thursday, inclusive. Homework is not set for the weekends. However, there may be an exception to weekend homework if homework has been neglected during the week. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special event.

What is the content of Homework?

Homework will usually involve a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. It should be noted that all three may not be given each night but that reading and learning tasks are just as important as written work. Homework will usually involve reading, spelling, tables, learning by heart, written work, colouring, drawing, observing/collecting/recording information and completing work began in class. Children will often feel that reading and learning by rota is not real homework. Parents can help here by listening to reading, poems, etc. ensuring that this work is done properly.

How long should Homework take?

Different children will complete the same work in different lengths of time. All we can provide is a guidance. Please note that the times taken will vary from day to day and at different times of the school year.

The following is a guide for parents:

Junior Infants	0-15 minutes
Senior Infants	up to 20 minutes
Rang 1 & 2	up to 30 minutes
Rang 3 & 4	up to 40 minutes
Rang 5	up to 50 minutes
Rang 6	up to 1 hour

Remember that it is the quality - content, tidiness, layout, etc. - not the quantity of homework that matters.

Remember:

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

Can Parents Help?

Of course parents can help by:

1. Providing a suitable place and time to do homework, away from the distraction of smaller children, T.V. etc.

However, children should be capable of doing homework on their own. Parents should only help when the child has difficulty. Helping does not mean doing the homework for them. In this case, parents should write a note to the class teacher outlining the difficulty.

2. Listening to reading.
3. Helping children where they find homework difficult.

Should Parents Monitor Homework?

Each child (1st to 6th) has a notebook where the relevant homework is written. Senior Infants have a homework folder. Parents should check and sign this each evening. This notebook is an important record of the homework given and checked as well as a valuable means of communication between parents and teacher. Please send all written messages to your child's teacher in the relevant section of the notebook.

When Should Homework be done?

Each family situation is different - one or both parents working, child minder, etc. homework should be done early in the evening before the T.V. is switched on and before your child gets too tired. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Marking Homework?

Ideally, teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large numbers in the classroom, it is not always possible to check each child individually each day. In the Middle or Senior Classes the child learns to work independently and some diaries may only be checked weekly, or as soon as possible after the assignment is given. We aim to mark homework each day as the tasks set form part of class learning.

Please contact the teacher re homework/write a note in the diary.

5. If your child cannot do/finish homework due to family circumstances.
6. If your child cannot do/finish homework because he/she cannot understand part of it.

7. If your child is spending much longer than the recommended time on homework.

Failure to do homework:

We expect all homework to be completed each night as prescribed. If homework is not done and where a note from parents has not been supplied, the action outlined will be followed.

8. The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to do the work.
9. Should failure to do homework become a regular feature, the teacher will contact the parent (written note in notebook to be signed by parent).
10. Homework to be completed at break-time/weekend.

REVISED AND UP-DATED: 15TH February 2013