



Scoil Chaitríona Cappamore Co. Limerick

Email: secretarysch1@gmail.com Web: www.scoilchaitríonacappamore.ie

Tel: 061- 381774 Roll No: 20233L



Homework Policy

The Board of Management of this school hereby sets out its policy in relation to homework. This policy was originally drawn up in January 2003, and reviews and updated in October 2020.

This policy has been put together by the teachers, in consultation with the parents of the children of Scoil Chaitríona and the Board of Management.

Scoil Chaitríona, Cappamore is a Catholic Primary School under the Patronage of His Grace, Archbishop Kieran O'Reilly of the diocese of Cashel & Emly.

At present there are six teaching staff including the Principal, two Special Education Teachers, three classroom teachers and one special class teacher. Ancillary Staff include four Special Needs Assistants, part time School Secretary, part time School Caretaker and cleaner.

We are a mixed Primary School catering for the full range of classes from Junior Infants to Sixth Class with a Junior Special Class.

The school is funded by grants issued by the Department of Education and Science. These grants are used according to the regulations laid down. The school follows the curricular programmes as laid down by the Department of Education and Science.

1) Why give homework?

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day
- To provide a link between teacher and parent
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child 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 children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

2) How often is homework given?

Homework is given **Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays** but not on Fridays.

There are some exceptions:-

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- In Senior Classes some project work is undertaken at weekends

- When a child is absent homework is sent home to be completed at the parent's discretion.
- "Catch up" homework is given if a child has been absent for a long time.

3) What is the content of homework?

- 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, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring that this work is done well.

4) How much time should be 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	10-15 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 35 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 45 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 45 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

Children from First Class up should have their own homework journal.

5) When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- 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.
- In any of these events a note from the parent to the teacher will clarify things.

6) How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework by preventing interruptions or distractions like T.V. or other children

- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanations or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case **the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.**
- Shared Reading is not homework in the regular sense and is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.
- Parents are informed of the format of Junior Infants homework in shared reading and Phonics (Jolly Phonics Programme)

7) How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents 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 (additional pages available at the end of the Journal)
- Please check that your child records their homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the Homework Journal. Please check your child's Journal for such notes on a regular basis.

8) How often do teachers monitor homework?

- 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.

9) When should homework be done?

- 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.

10) Children attending SET

- The SET may give a small amount of homework to reinforce the work being done at school.
- This normally takes the form of reading and is usually marked on a daily basis. If reading is given by the SET then less is asked in reading of the child by the class teacher.
- Care is always taken that pupils attending the SET do not get too much extra homework and co-operation with the class teacher is ongoing in this regard.

11) Covid Response to Homework 2020

- Due to Covid 19 we have developed a new approach to homework in order to provide a safe working environment for pupils, families and teachers alike.

- We have taken a hiatus from homework for the month of September in order to focus on well-being and prepare a new plan for homework.
- In October we will give a pack with the homework planned out for the week on a Monday. Children are asked to do homework daily according to the plan. The homework pack is then returned to school on a Friday for oral correction by teacher and to ensure all work was completed. Children will physically correct their own work as dictated by the teacher in so far as is possible to limit transmission. In Senior classes maths answers will be given on a sheet a week later for children to correct at home. Children are encouraged to make sure their books and pack are wiped down when they bring them home and before bringing them into school. Children should also sanitise before correcting any work. Teachers should also sanitise between copies if correcting.
- We are also using Seesaw in the event of a lockdown. This is a homework application which will allow for daily interaction with children and parents. Children will practise using Seesaw and be given short exercises to complete in advance of any lockdown.
- All staff will use Seesaw in the event of a lockdown. A code is sent to parents to log their child in. The teacher can post and receive work and can comment on the child's efforts. SET staff will also use Seesaw with the maths and English classes they have been assigned to.
- Instead of communicating absences and any correspondence from parents via letter or via the homework journal, we ask that parents phone or email the school as we still need to record reasons for absence on the Aladdin system.

Remember

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.

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Chaitriona on the 01 December 2020

Signed: Pato Toole Chairperson, Board of Management