

SCOIL SEANÁIN NAOFA, CLUAINLÁRACH

Homework policy

It is school policy that all classes 1st -6th inclusive should have regular homework. Informal homework for Infants is at teacher's discretion. However, we fully realise that this may prove problematic occasionally. The following general guide lines may help to make life a little less painful and more beneficial for all concerned.

The following are suggested times for each class group.

Formal

Junior/Senior	5 – 15 mins
Rang 1	10 – 20 mins
Rang 2	15 – 30 mins
Rang 3	20 – 30 mins
Rang 4	20 – 40 mins
Rang 5	40 mins – 1 hour
Rang 6	45 mins – 1hour – 15 mins

The above suggested time frame is a guide as to the length of time it would take an average child in the class to complete the homework.

However, we must all be clearly aware that this will vary greatly from one individual to another for many reasons. These may include:-

- 1) Ability and speed of child to read and write
- 2) Child's personal concentration and application
- 3) Structured timetable with freedom from distraction
- 4) Degree of parental encouragement and supervision

Teachers will help by:-

- a) Checking homework daily in class. Teachers will also take home copies for more detailed inspection occasionally.
- b) Commenting on journal to alert parents re. difficulties.
- c) Occasionally monitoring length of time taken.
- d) Checking that journals are signed (although this is the prime responsibility of parents)
- e)

Parents will help by:-

- 1) Encouraging child to work on their own, concentrate and get it done quickly and efficiently.
- 2) Homework to be done at a regular time and in suitable surroundings i.e. no T.V. distractions etc.
- 3) Help by all means but never do it for the pupil – this will disguise problems and mislead the teacher.
- 4) On checking that written work has been done properly, i.e. neatly and correctly and that oral work is known, parents should then sign the journal.
- 5) Revising oral work later that night or early morning.
- 6) If a child cannot complete homework for some reason, e. g. sickness, too difficult, too long etc. parent should write note on journal.
- 7) If homework becomes an ongoing problem, parent should consult with teacher.
- 8) If you find yourself becoming annoyed and this has been known to happen on occasions!! Leave it until another time as tension or harsh criticism will only create much more serious problems such as undermining self-esteem etc.

Weekends:

Generally classes may earn the right to free homework on weekends, through their endeavours during the week (especially in relation to quality of school/home work, self-discipline etc).

However, exceptions to the above policy may include:-

- a) 6th class – due to pressure of work
- b) Some children with special needs
- c) To complete class programme
- d) Informal school work, e.g. project research, quiz time etc.

Excellent practice

It is very beneficial when parents involve their children on a regular basis in other educational activities. This list may be helpful:-

- a) Language development introducing your child to the meaning and usage of new words whenever possible.
- b) Encouraging child to use properly constructed sentences.
- c) Creating a reading environment to instil in your child a love of books and reading (vital).
- d) Cluichi as gaeilge
- e) Educational games, appropriate computer software.
- f) Quizzes, cross-words etc.
- g) When going on holidays/journeys, discussion on towns, rivers, mountains, counties, etc.
- h) Asking and answering “how” and “why” questions, why must we put oil in our engines? Why does milk boil over? Use of encyclopaedia/reference books etc.
- i) Discussion on T.V. programmes.
- j) Nature walks, names of flowers, birds, trees, animals etc.
- k) Enrolling child in music, dancing, drama, elocution, swimming classes, games etc.
- l) Encourage your child to write e.g. letters, e-mail, diaries etc.

m) Important to reward the effort rather than the result.

