



Caherline N.S Homework Policy

This policy was written by the staff and parents of Caherline National School. Representatives from the BOM, Parent's Association and Student Council were consulted during the formulation of the Homework Policy of Caherline National School.

Why does Caherline N.S give homework?

- To reinforce 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. Occasionally homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity in the senior classes.
- The class teacher typically prepares the homework.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability – no more, no less.
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Frequency of homework

- Homework is given on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - a) If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - b) Sometimes project work is undertaken by senior classes at the weekend.
- Occasionally the children may be given 'homework off', this is usually as a treat or in acknowledgement of a special occasion. These instances are at the discretion of the class teacher or principal.

- There will be no written homework on Thursdays. This will give parents and pupils the opportunity to revise spellings, tables and concentrate on reading exercises on this night.
- Pupils will be given no homework on the night of their birthday
- Homework is not generally given on a school day before a public holiday.
- Extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or weekend if a child has not completed homework, not made an acceptable effort or if they have broken school rules (however every effort to avoid blanket punishment should be made by all teachers)

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.
- 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 really homework. Parents play an essential role by listening to reading, listening to items that are to be learned and by ensuring this work is completed to the best of the students ability.

Time spent on homework

The following are **guidelines** for time spent on 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** of homework that matters, not the quantity. Pupils must write the list of their homework in a homework journal. Pupils will only take home the books that they need for homework, all other books will be left in school. This will reduce the weight of school bags.

Please note that these times refer to quality time, where students are concentrated on their work, without distraction.

Junior Infants	0 – 20 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 30 minutes.
First Class	Up to 40 minutes
Second Class	Up to 40 minutes
Third Class	Up to 50 minutes
Fourth Class	Up to 50 minutes
Fifth Class	Up to 1 hour
Sixth Class	Up to 1 hour.

Parental Support

- Parents should provide their children with a suitable place and time to do their homework. They should prevent interruptions or distractions like TV 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 explanation or examples. Parents should never do the homework for their child. In such cases parents should write a note to the teacher explaining the difficulty.
- When reviewing homework it is good practice for parents to identify errors and correct with the child where necessary.
- Shared Reading is homework that is meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.
- It is good practice for parents/guardians to sign homework journal when completed.

Teachers monitoring of homework

- Ideally, teachers will check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to monitor each child's homework every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day.
- Sometimes the children will check items of homework themselves. This process is always under the direction of the teacher and is considered to be a useful part of the learning process.

When should parents communication with the teacher about homework?

- If your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances parents.
- If your child is unable to complete the homework because he/she cannot understand some aspect of the assigned homework.
- If the time spent on homework is **frequently** longer than the recommended guidelines as outlined above.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different – both parents working, childminders etc. Ideally, homework should be done after a short break, soon after school while your child is still fresh. It is not good practice to return to homework after watching television or using computer games etc.
- Homework should never be left until the morning time before school.

Remember: If homework is a stressful experience for parent and child, something is wrong! Stress leads to reduced learning outcomes, which defeat the whole purpose. Please contact the class teacher if this happens on a regular basis.