

Carrakennedy National School

Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

At Carrakennedy National School we consider homework to be important because it:

- reinforces and supports work done at school
- fosters a link between home and school
- keeps parents in touch with the curriculum and what their children are learning at school
- enables children to consolidate learning in their own time
- encourages independent learning, responsibility and good work habits
- assists teachers in assessing and evaluating the child's understanding and progress in a given area

Time Allocation

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

There may be some exceptions to the above, for example:

- A child may be given 'homework off'/Homework Pass as a reward or on a special occasion.
- If a child has continuously neglected homework during the week they may be asked to complete unfinished work at the weekend.
- Project work, undertaken at senior classes, may require some additional work at weekends from time to time.

The following are the guidelines for time spent on homework. Time spent will vary from day to day and different children will complete the homework in different times.

- Junior Infants up to 15mins.
- Senior Infants up to 20mins.
- First Class up to 25mins.
- Second Class up to 30mins.
- Third Class 30-40 mins.
- Fourth Class 40-50 mins.
- Fifth Class 50-60 mins.
- Sixth Class 1hr-1hr 10 mins.

Guidelines for Teachers

- Homework should only consolidate work done in class and should be appropriate to the individual.
- Homework should be properly explained to the children in advance.
- Homework is *never* given as a punishment. (c/f Code of Good Behaviour)

- Children have a homework journal from Third Class up.
- Teachers set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students on a regular basis.

Guidelines for Parents

- Try and find a comfortable, quiet area in your home for your child's homework.
- Try and prevent interruptions or distractions like TV or other children.
- Ensure that your child has everything they need for their work.
- Encourage your child to eat something before starting their homework.
- Use lots of praise and encouragement.
- Encourage increasing **independence** as your child gets older.
- Check the homework bag or journal every day to see what homework has been assigned.
- Ideally, homework should be done before any TV, playtime etc, soon after school while your child is fresh. However, some children may need a break before they start.
- Please check that all homework has been completed before you sign the homework sheet or journal.
- If, for some reason, the homework is not complete, please write a short note in your child's journal explaining why.
- Please ensure that your child takes good care of our school rental books and returns them to school each day.
- Remember, if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Communicate any difficulties or concerns with regard to homework to the teacher. Teachers and Principal are available to meet with you to discuss any worries you may have regarding homework. Please phone the office to make an appointment, if necessary.

Guidelines for Pupils

- Have something to look forward to after you have finished your homework.
- Do your homework in a quiet place.
- Ask for help from your parents/guardians.
- Make sure your homework is always done. You must have a written note from a parent/guardian if it is not completed.
- Take your time doing your homework and present it well.
- Eat a healthy snack before you begin.
- Look after the school rental books.

Content of Homework

- Homework can take many forms, each of which is equally important: reading, words, spellings, maths, oral discussion, art, project work etc.
- Ideally, homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance can vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that both reading and learning tasks are just as important as written homework.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables and written work.

- Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is well done.

Teacher Evaluation of Homework

- Homework assists the teacher in assessing and evaluating the child's understanding and progress in a given area.
- As far as the daily school routine allows, homework will be checked on a daily basis. However, with multi grade classes, this is not always possible.
- Teachers will have their own individual ways of assessing homework and this will be outlined to parents at class meetings at the beginning of the school year.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once a week.
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by pupils themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for the children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.
- If homework is not done or is completed without care and attention, the pupil may be asked to complete it during break-time the following day, under supervision.

Review and Monitoring

This homework policy was adopted by the BOM in April 2013. It was reviewed by staff and BOM in 2017. It will be reviewed again in 2 years (2019). This is to ensure that parents and teachers are completely clear about what is expected of pupils in terms of homework and how it should be organised and managed.

This policy adopted by Board of Management on 30th April 2013 and was reviewed on

17/5/17

Signed:

Wyneth Marks

(Chairperson of B.O.M)

Signed:

Aideen McPaul

(Principal)