



HOMEWORK POLICY

Introductory Statement

This revised policy was formulated in September 2011 through consultation with pupils, staff, parents and Board of management. Guidelines were also taken into consideration from presentation given to parents on 'Homework' in May 2010.

Rationale

The philosophy of an Educate Together school is four pronged; it is a child-centered, democratically run, multi-denominational and co-educational school. Monkstown Educate Together NS seeks to enable each child to develop his or her potential within this context. Homework given will reflect this ethos where parental involvement is encouraged.

The intention of homework is to foster independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and responsibility and life-long learning.

It can be used to practice what is done in school or it can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity with sometimes a choice of homework available.

Homework should be achievable independently and there should be no element of failure attached to homework.

Principles behind homework

1. Homework provides a link between home and school.
2. It allows parents to spend time with their children and to become involved in their learning.
3. It keeps parents informed about what their child is doing in school and how they are coping with tasks.
4. It enables the child to complete or extend work done in class.
5. It is an opportunity to reinforce or practice skill e.g. spellings, tables, writing, reading etc.
6. It enables the child to do research.

Guidelines

Homework Journal (Dialann Scoile)

Classes from 1st – 6th will use a Homework Journal (Dialann Scoile)

Pupils should endeavour to



- enter homework accurately in homework journal.
- ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
- complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
- present homework neatly.

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) should

- encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- encourage children to work independently as far as possible and resist over-helping.
- encourage children to organise themselves for homework, have all books and materials to hand and the pupil should have the Homework journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
- agree a suitable time for doing homework taking into account the child's age and the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and T.V.
- encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- allow time for oral as well as written work.
- sign the Homework Journal every day (Monday – Thursday- 1st to 6th classes) checking that all homework is completed and check the child has all the necessary books, Homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes (if needed), for the next school day.
- communicate difficulties with the teacher using the Homework journal.

Teachers should

- set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students.
- monitor homework to help identify pupils with special difficulties.
- differentiate homework for children with particular needs.
- set reading homework each day

Monitoring of Homework

Teachers should monitor homework on a daily basis. Some items of homework, particularly in senior classes, may be checked by the children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

When homework is not done, an explanation note is required by the teacher. If it is not done regularly, the teacher will contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter will be brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Homework Routines

The following are occasions when the children may not be given homework:

- Birthdays or nearest day
- Fridays
- Special rewards/Class or group treat/Homework voucher/pass
- Holiday times/ Special occasions



- Request from Principal.

In the event that a child is absent from school (sick, holidays, etc), there will be no homework set/sent home by teachers

Duration of 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. Differentiation will also apply to duration of homework recommended. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are the guidelines:

Homework is given Monday to Thursday (inclusive) – no homework at weekends.

Junior and Senior Infants: No written work. Words/ sounds and reading for approximately 15- 20 mins.

1st / 2nd Class: 30 – 40 mins

3rd/4th Class: 40 – 50 mins.

5th / 6th Class: 1 hour

Accommodations

METNS is aware and appreciates that over 500,000 adults face the daily challenges that literacy presents within homework and would therefore like to support, within the strictest of confidence, this task to the best of its ability. Accommodations will be made where possible for parents/guardians who would like support in helping their children with homework especially in areas of Numeracy, English and Irish.

These supports may include;

- Recommendations/ Organisation of Literacy classes for parents
(These will be communicated through website, parent information evenings etc.)
- Organisation of talks for parents in areas linked to homework/support at home etc.

Alternatively freephone 1800 20 20 65 for advice on confidential adult literacy support.

This policy will be reviewed in September 2013 or as necessary.

Date ratified by Board of Management: November 2011