Scoil Phádraig Naofa Buachaillí

Homework Policy

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

This policy was formulated by the staff of Scoil Phádraig Naofa Buachaillí.

RATIONALE

Homework develops home/school links; re-enforces learning; promotes independence through the routine of homework completion; fosters personal growth, development and self-discipline thus instilling a love of learning in the pupil.

AIMS

The aims of homework in Scoil Phádraig Naofa Buachaillí are:

- To encourage the child to work independently.
- To encourage the child to be responsible for his own work.
- To consolidate work already completed by the class teacher.
- To re-enforce new concepts.
- To develop concentration skills.
- To develop a routine and self-discipline in the child.
- To foster parental involvement thus providing a home/school link.
- To encourage reading at home.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Homework is given every night from Monday to Thursday.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or principal, children are given "Homework-off" as a treat or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion.
- No homework at weekends.

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- An element of choice will be included in homework for all senior classes.
- Project type homework will be included at least once termly in all senior classes.
- Homework will be written into a notebook/homework journal.
- All work will be prepared in class by the Class Teacher.
- 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 this work is done well. Please note that reading should not be limited to just homework material. Parents should ensure that children should have a supply of supplementary reading for further personal enjoyment.

When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any screen time is allowed and soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework.

<u>How much time for homework?</u>

- Approximate times for the average pupil:

Junior Infants:	Informal
Senior Infants:	15 minutes
First Class:	20 minutes
Second Class:	30 minutes
Third Class:	40 minutes
Fourth Class:	45 minutes
Fifth Class:	50 minutes
Sixth Class:	1 hour

- Parents/guardians are expected and encouraged to regularly monitor and review their child's homework.
- If a child makes a genuine effort to do the homework and does not complete it within the specified time parents/guardians must sign the homework notebook/journal indicating that such an effort was made.
- Contact will be made with a parent/guardian if a child's homework is continuously incomplete.
- Homework must be signed each night with the time spent completing the homework also recorded.

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 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 or may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher.

Ratified by Board of Management on _____

Date

Signed _____

Chris Mortell, Chairperson of the Board of Management.