

# Scoil Chearbhaill Uí Dhálaigh

## Title

Homework- draft policy

## Introductory Statement

State how and when the policy was formulated and who was involved.

This draft policy was formulated by the staff of Scoil Chearbhaill Uí Dhálaigh in June and September 2010.

## Rationale

It is necessary to devise a policy on homework at this time:

- To provide a concise account of current practices in relation to homework in our school
- To promote good home/school relations
- To maximise the benefit of homework to the child's learning.
- To promote consistency of subject-balance and variety of tasks set for homework in all classes

## Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

- Scoil Chearbhaill Uí Dhálaigh seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

## Aims

**By introducing this policy the school ideally hopes to :**

1. To promote a consistency of approach to homework in all classes
2. To strengthen home/school links

## Guidelines

These 'Guidelines for Parents' published in our Parents' Handbook, in the Homework Diary and on [www.scoilchearbhaill.com](http://www.scoilchearbhaill.com) should be read in conjunction with the following:

Responsibility for supervision of homework lies with parents/guardians. They should ensure that homework is completed to a satisfactory standard each evening.

Each household should have an emergency supply of pencils, erasers, rulers etc.

When a pupil forgets to bring home their homework folder/copy/diary, pupils in Infants - First Classes should engage in a reading activity instead. Pupils in 2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Classes should try to contact another pupil in their class to get the homework.

## Approach:

- All classes are given homework but Junior Infants receive it only from the second term on. Clear instructions on how to go about homework are sent home to parents of pupils in Junior Infants when homework is set for the first time.

- Differences in pupils' abilities are taken into account when homework is being set. Learning Support Teachers set reading only as homework.
- More reading and written work is set than oral/learning by heart. A variety of tasks are set eg project work, research, practical activities, spelling and data collection according to suitability to the class level.
- Differences in pupils' learning styles are taken into account when homework is being set
- Homework is usually regarded as consolidation of work done in class, but from time to time it may serve as preparation.
- Homework is clearly explained before it is assigned. Individual class teachers decide when homework is written down and collected and or corrected in their own class.
- Homework is generally assigned daily, Monday to Thursday. Teachers may assign homework for the week-end , especially in senior classes. Teachers may make exceptions to homework eg birthdays and special occasions.

*Suggested Maximum time spent on homework*

| <i>Class</i>                                     | <i>Time</i>       |
|--|-------------------|
| <i>Infants</i>                                   | <i>10-15 mins</i> |
| <i>1st &amp; 2<sup>nd</sup> Class</i>            | <i>20-30 mins</i> |
| <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Class</i>                      | <i>45 mins</i>    |
| <i>4<sup>th</sup> Class</i>                      | <i>1 hour</i>     |
| <i>5<sup>th</sup> &amp; 6<sup>th</sup> Class</i> | <i>1.5 hours</i>  |

- Homework may be used as a reward/sanction e.g. pupils may earn a Homework Pass as a reward and extra homework may be set as a sanction for a breach of expected standards of behaviour as set out in our Code of Discipline.

**Homework Diary**

- Each pupil in Infant Classes is given a Homework Folder {an A4-sized plastic Wallet}. First Class pupils have a Homework Copybook and a school Homework Diary is given to each pupil in 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to note the time spent on homework and to sign the relevant homework document each night – Homework Record Sheet for Infants, Homework Copybook for First Class and Homework Diary for 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Classes.
- Homework Records are regularly checked by teachers.

**Homework Correction:**

- Homework is regularly checked and corrected by teachers
- Effort as well as achievement is recognised by use of stamps, stars, notes of praise, small prizes etc.

**Failure to do Homework/Homework below acceptable standard**

- Regular failure to do homework or if it is often messy, the class teacher writes a short note to the parents in the appropriate place. Teachers will

deal with each case on an individual basis and in an age appropriate manner. A pupil might receive sanctions as follows:

Homework to be completed that same evening along with that day's homework

Homework to be completed during lunch-time instead of going out to yard/having recess

Homework to be completed at the week-end

- If the teacher observes a definite pattern of failure to do homework or of sloppily-done homework, she will investigate the matter privately with the parents/guardians with a view to resolving the problem

General Points:

### **Study-Skills**

**We anticipate that the study skills taught in class will stand to the pupils as they undertake homework. Please See INTO publication' Your Child In Primary School'.**

**Family circumstances are always taken in to consideration when particular tasks/activities are set for homework.**

### **Pupils**

**It is pupils' responsibility to complete homework to the best of their ability.**

**If he/she has a difficulty with homework, he/she should seek help from an adult.If the pupil still has difficulty, the homework should be left undone and an explanatory note given to the class teacher the following morning. These guidelines are published in the Homework Diary and are regularly explained to pupils.**

### **Parents/Guardians:**

- **Feedback from Parents' and Pupils' Questionnaires were taken into consideration in the formulation of this draft policy**
- **Feedback and suggestions to this draft policy will be taken into consideration in the final document**
- **Parents are informed of agreed procedures and practices for Homework in the Handbook for Parents and the Homework Diary**
- **If a pupil has difficulty completing homework, parents should place a note in the child's Homework Folder[Infants], Homework Copybook[ 1<sup>st</sup> Class] or in the Homework Diary [2<sup>nd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> Class] as appropriate.**
- **Parents should have an 'Emergency Homework Kit' at home- pencil, eraser, ruler etc**

### **Success Criteria**

**Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents.**

**Satisfactory homework practices among pupils.**