

# Homework Policy

## Introductory Statement

This whole school plan was formulated by the teaching staff of Broombridge Educate Together National School (BETNS) during the 2018/2019 school year.

## Rationale

BETNS 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, however if you feel your child is spending consistently excessive time, please speak to their class teacher.

- Junior Infants                    up to 15mins
- Senior Infants                   up to 20mins
- First Class                        up to 25mins
- Second Class                    up to 30mins
- Third Class                        up to 35mins
- Fourth Class                     up to 40mins
- Fifth Class                        up to 50mins
- Sixth Class                        up to 1hr

### **Guidelines for Teachers**

- Homework should only consolidate work done in class and should be appropriate to the individual (differentiated where possible).
- Homework should be properly explained to the children in advance.
- Homework is *never* given as a punishment.
- Teachers outline activities on a weekly homework sheet for infant classes.
- Children have a homework journal from First 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 inform the class teacher.
- 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 contact 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/carers.
- Make sure your homework is always done. You must have a written note from a parent/carers 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**

- Generally homework can take many forms, each of which is equally important: oral language (rhymes, poems and songs), reading (phonics, tricky/sight words and readers),

writing activities, maths (mental maths, tables, worksheets/book work), Gaeilge and 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.
- At times homework will follow a whole school theme or thematic approach, i.e. active week for example.
- Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned, ensuring this work is well done.

**\* Please note that homework will not be provided for individual children, on request (extra homework/holidays/illnesses). For extra educational activities at home we would recommend lots and lots of reading and discussion.**

### Teacher Evaluation of Homework

- Homework assists the teacher in assessing and evaluating the child's understanding and progress in a given area.
- Homework will be checked weekly.
- 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.
- 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 again.

### Review and Monitoring

This homework policy will be implemented throughout the school and will be reviewed in June 2020. This will also allow an opportunity for parental feedback and input into the policy and for meaningful engagement to take place regarding any amendments to be made.

Ratified by Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Chairperson of B.O.M)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Principal)