



Bunscoil Rís Edmund Rice Senior Primary, Castlemoyle, New Ross, Co. Wexford, Y34XN32.

Roll No: 20482J 051-448378 secretary@bunscoilris.ie  @bunscoilris

Principal: Gerry Moran Deputy Principal: Niamh King Assistant Principal Emma Kavanagh

Home Work Policy

Bunscoil Rís, Edmund Rice Senior School

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Introduction

The school homework policy has been formulated in the light of guidance and suggestions for best practice from the DES, the IPPN, the NPC, the INTO etc. This policy has been drawn up through a collaborative process involving the staff, parents, the Board of Management and the Parents' Association.

Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. For example, a parent who spends time reading a story to their child before bedtime is helping with homework. Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, diagnostic and standardised testing provides an overall picture of the student's progress and development as she/he advances through school. This enables the teacher and Principal to maintain standards throughout the school, to strive for excellence and to ensure that all students achieve their full potential.

Rationale

- To promote consistency and a similar approach throughout the school, from 3rd to 6th class, especially when there is a staff change in Bunscoil Rís.
- Parental and Teacher questionnaire on homework indicated there is a problem with content of homework given. There needs to be more focus given to reading and learning.



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Aims

In Bunscoil Rís our Homework Policy aims to:

- Allow pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- Help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- Involve parents/guardians and family in the pupils work to their mutual benefit.
- To strengthen links between home and school
- Give pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.
- Encourage self-motivation and initiative.

Homework allows a parent/guardian to:

- become actively involved in the pupil's work.
- see how their child is doing in school.

Homework allows a teacher to:

- assess pupils learning.
- extend school learning.

Homework allows a pupil to:

- make progress in their learning
- strengthen their independent learning
- extend school learning.



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Types of Homework

<p>3rd & 4th Class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading Zone/Novel/Differentiated Reader – Pupils will work from the Reading Zone or a differentiated reader appropriate to their level ➤ Jolly Phonics Spellings Programme – Teachers will assign pupils dictionary work, fun activities and exercises based on their spellings in a spelling copy in class each week. (Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check) ➤ Mathletics - Teachers assign work on Mathletics based on topics being completed in the class and pupils ability levels. These websites provide the teachers with clear and relevant feedback from the pupils work each day. ➤ Poetry – Pupils will learn an Irish and an English poem/song every month. The poem/song will be practiced each day in the classroom. Poems/songs can be sourced from the Seo Leat and Reading Zone manuals and https://www.poetryshack.org.
<p>5th & 6th Class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reading Zone – Pupils will work from the Reading Zone or a differentiate reader appropriate to their level ➤ Jolly Phonics Spellings Programme – Teachers will assign pupils dictionary work, activities and exercises based on their spellings in a spelling copy each week. (Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check) ➤ Mathletics - Teachers assign work on Mathletics based on topics being completed in the class and pupils ability levels. These websites provide the teachers with clear and relevant feedback from the pupils work each day. ➤ Poetry – Pupils will learn an Irish and an English poem/song every month. The poem/song will be practiced each day in the classroom. Poems/songs can be sourced from the Seo Leat and Poetry Shark. https://www.poetryshack.org



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Written Homework – (Needs to be purposeful) A small amount of written homework will be assigned to pupils in 5th and 6th class. https://pdst.ie/node/314
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Written homework for 5th class and 6th class

September /October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Written spelling activities (See spelling activities below)
November/December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Written spelling activities ➤ First Steps activities (the genre being taught in class that month)
January / February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Written spelling activities ➤ First Steps activities (the genre being taught in class that month)
March / April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Written spelling activities ➤ First Steps activities (the genre being taught in class that month)
May / June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Written spelling activities ➤ First Steps activities (the genre being taught in class that month)

Written homework does not have to be given every week but at least 2 weeks in the month.

For online homework activities pupils will be complete it using any device, such as desktop computer, tablet or iPad.

Written homework is assigned to pupils on a Monday and to be completed by Friday.

Homework is always differentiated to cater for pupil’s abilities, circumstances, age and class level.

Teachers engage in spelling activities and counting activities each morning to reinforce what the children learned the night before and check on their progress. A daily spelling test of a few spellings is preferable to a Friday test of all the spellings.



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Pupils write their homework in their journal, which is an important link between home and school. Pupils will be rewarded Dojo points during the week for their homework.

Pupils will have passwords for any websites in the back of their journals to help parents at home.

Parents are encouraged to sit with their child to help them with their homework when required.

Parents are asked to ensure homework is completed and sign their child's homework journal on a Thursday evening to confirm homework is finished.

Time to be spent on Homework

The issue of how much time a child should spend on homework is difficult to specify exactly, it depends on a number of factors including:

- the child's age.
- the child's level of concentration.
- the time of day/night that homework is undertaken.
- home factors such as distractions, demands of younger children, etc.
- the child's learning ability.

Maximum time to be spent on homework:

- 3rd Class: 40 minutes
- 4th Class: 50 minutes
- 5th Class: 60 minutes
- 6th Class: 60 minutes

Role of Parents/Guardians:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework.
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and television.
- Assist their child with their reading when needed. Listen to them read.
- Encourage their child to work independently as far as possible. Errors can inform the teacher of lack of understanding of the topic.
- Encourage their child to organise himself/herself for homework.



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Remember, if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose of this policy. Should this happen on a regular basis, please make an appointment to discuss this matter with the class teacher.

Others Ways in which Parents/Guardians can help children to learn

- Participate in home school programmes organised by our Home School Liaison
- Read to your child and allow him/her to share his/her reading with you
- Join the local library
- Talk to your child about the work he/she is doing in school
- Encourage your child to use the Irish phrases they learn in school
- Attend talks in relation to educational matters organised in the school
- Monitor the amount of time spent by children watching T.V., playing on play-stations etc
- Ensure that children get to bed early on school nights

Role of Teachers:

- Assign homework in accordance with the homework policy
- Homework can be assigned to pupils on a Monday for the week.
- Homework should reinforce the work done in class.
- Each class will learn an Irish poem/song each month as part of their Gaeilge homework. The poem/song will be practiced in the classroom.
- Homework is always differentiated to cater for pupil's abilities, circumstances, age and class level.
- Consult with the SET regarding the needs of students availing of support teaching
- Fifth and Sixth class pupils will complete some written homework.
- Teachers engage in spellings activities and counting each morning to reinforce what the children learned the night before and check on their progress.



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- A daily spelling test of a few spellings is preferable to a Friday test of all spellings.

Spelling Activities

(These activities can be used in the classroom in 3rd & 4th class and for homework in 5th and 6th class)

FIRST NIGHT – Mon or Tuesday Choose one activity

- A, B, C order (put in Alphabetical order)
- Put **5** words into sentences – maybe have **2** words in the one sentence.
- Write each word without its vowels. Replace each **vowel** with a **line**.
- Choose **5** words and write characteristics that help define that word.

SECOND NIGHT – Tuesday – Thursday Choose one activity.

- Choose **one** word from your list and write a story.
- Choose **one** word from your list and write an advertisement to sell that word or what it represents.
- Create a word find puzzle using your words.
- Create a crossword puzzle using **half** your list.
- Choose the longest words on your list : rearrange the letters in the words to make new words,
- Create a collage of one word you choose from your list. Find an cut out the same word from magazines, newspapers etc.
- Choose **one** word from your list and create a recipe for making something – doesn't have to be something you eat.
- Take **5** words and write words that are similar in meaning to them.
- Choose **3** words and use each word in a separate word problem. Show how to solve the problem.
- Write a **mnemonic** sentence to help you remember **each** of your spellings.



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- Write a **riddle** using some of your spelling words.
- Figure how much **5** of your spelling words is worth. A = 1, B = 2, C = 3.

Counting, Ordering and Sequencing Activities

- Counting forwards and backwards
 - Skip Counting
 - Number ordering and sequencing
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- <https://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/7-11-years/ordering-and-sequencing>
 - <https://www.splashlearn.com/counting-games>
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zkqv382>
 - <https://nzmaths.co.nz/ao/na1-2-know-forward-and-backward-counting-sequences-whole-numbers-100>

Failure to do Homework

- Teachers will discuss with the child any problems they may have with their homework. Their homework may need to be differentiated or altered to cater for the needs of the child.
- Teacher may need to contact parents if the problem persists.
- Detention is not given to a child who does not complete their homework.
- Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher if the child is experiencing problems or anxiety at home due to homework.



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Useful Internet Sites for Parents to Access further Information

Websites:

<http://www.education.ie/en/Parents/> Contains a number of different links which include Special Educational Needs, Primary Curriculum, Literacy & Numeracy and Resources.

<http://www.ncca.ie> The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment provide resources and information on play, literacy & numeracy for parents of children from ages 0 – 12 years of age.

<http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie/> This website highlights the way people of all ages learn as part of their everyday lives and especially the positive things that children learn at home from their families.

<http://www.scoilnet.ie> Scoilnet is the Department of Education and Skills official portal for Irish education. It has a wealth of resources that will help your child's learning.

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learningzone/primary-students/> AskAboutIreland is an excellent website setup by the public libraries. The primary section has information for all ages and is spilt into History, Geography, Gaeilge, Music, English, Environment & Art.

http://www.ncse.ie/for_parents/Information_Pamphlets.asp The National Council for Special Education [NCSE] has produced a pamphlet for parents of pupils with special educational needs.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/> The BBC Bitesize website has excellent literacy & numeracy websites for pupils ranging from 4-11 years of age. KS2 (ages 8-11).