

TERENURE COLLEGE JUNIOR SCHOOL



HOMEWORK POLICY

RATIONAL:

We at Terenure College view homework as an integral part of the school experience. Active, successful pupil participation in homework supports our beliefs of how children learn best. Homework benefits pupils not only by promoting academic success, but also by providing valuable opportunities to build character traits.

Through regular homework children learn responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management. Perhaps most significantly, pupils grow in their independence by being able to successfully complete school-related tasks with a minimum of direct help.

Through this policy we aim to ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.

1. WHY GIVE HOMEWORK?

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between classroom and home.
- Helps pupils develop an independent and active interest in learning.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability and the satisfaction of their teachers.

2. HOW OFTEN IS HOMEWORK GIVEN?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - if homework has been neglected during the week;
 - in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may be sometime be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

3. WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF HOMEWORK?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. The main focus is literacy and numeracy work in English, Maths and Irish occasionally and in particular with Senior Classes, there will be assignments ranging widely over the curriculum.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- 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.

4. HOW MUCH (TIME) 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. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Third Class	Up to 45 minutes
Fourth Class	Up to 45 minutes
Fifth Class	Up to 1 hour
Sixth Class	Up to 1 hour

In addition all pupils are expected to read for fifteen minutes and learn their tables every night.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUPILS:

- Record all homework assignments and revision in your Journal everyday.
- Take homework assignments and all necessary supplies home.
- Spend the necessary time on completing homework assignments.
- Demonstrate pride in homework by doing the work well.
- Seek help from parents if needed.
- Submit finished homework to the teacher, neatly done, on time and Journal signed by a parent.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TEACHERS:

- Ensure homework assignments leave school with clear and full directions.
- Remain flexible to parent’s concerns about unusual circumstances.
- To mark homework as and when required.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS:

- Allow your child time to unwind after school.
- Encourage children to participate in out of school activities (outside interests are important and should not be completely denied to children at the expense of homework).
- Make arrangements with your child regarding homework rules (when, where, how).
- Limit T.V. viewing.
- Arrange a quiet area including proper lighting, where possible.
- Support your child in all home learning.
- Spend time reading stories with/to your child every day.
- Take your child to the library, talk and investigate “Homework Topics”.
- Show confidence in your child’s ability; never do your child’s homework for him/her.
- Spend a few minutes monitoring your child’s progress on required homework then check and sign finished product.
- Ensure that all homework and materials are returned on time.

