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# HOMework POLICY

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Kildare Place School



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## KILDARE PLACE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY 2024

### Why give homework?

To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.

To provide a link between teacher and parent and assist parents in keeping up to date with their child's own 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 setting the homework during the course of the school day. 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 – no more, no less.

Unfortunately, as part of the implementation of the school's Code of Behaviour pupils may occasionally receive additional homework tasks as part of a sanction to address negative behaviour. In this circumstance it is vital that the homework is signed.

### How often is homework given?

Homework is typically given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. In the senior classes pupils can also receive all their homework at the beginning of the week and have different deadlines for submission for various subjects.

There are two exceptions where homework may be assigned at the weekend:

If homework has been neglected during the week.

In some classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework pass" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

Pupils who attend Support in the school may receive additional appropriate activities to help reinforce their daily learning. This is done in consultation with the class teacher.

In the Infant Classes, written homework is introduced on a phased basis according to class needs. Reading homework begins in September/October and continues throughout the year. Usually parents receive a communication at the beginning of the week outlining the homework for the upcoming days.

### What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.

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, spelling, 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 play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

### How much time for 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:

Junior Infants	Approx 10- 20 minutes
Senior Infants	Approx 10- 20 minutes
1st Class	20 to 30 minutes
2nd Class	20 to 30 minutes
3rd Class	30 to 40 minutes
4th Class	30 to 40 minutes
5th Class	30 to 40 minutes
6th Class	45 to 1 hour 15 minutes

### How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.

Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.

If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should communicate with the class teacher directly.

### How often should parents monitor homework?

Parents should check their child's homework journal or reading record every evening, signing where appropriate.

In the event that your child has any difficulty whilst completing their homework, parents are asked to contact the class teacher through the Aladdin app. If homework is causing unnecessary upset, parents are asked to contact the class teacher immediately.

### 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 each 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.

Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher . This can be a useful part of the learning process for children

### When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.

When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect of their assigned homework.

If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

### When should homework be done?

Each family situation is different – both parents working, childminders etc. Ideally, homework routines should be structured into each day. It should be done before any television is watched soon after school before your child gets too tired. Additional afterschool activities should be timetabled to allow for a relaxed, regular and consistent homework setting. However, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning before school.

### Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Class teachers spend adequate time explaining pupil's homework each evening so as to ensure that children know the tasks that have been assigned.

Homework is a priority in all classes and vital for the reinforcement of daily learning – ideally it should be completed before children start any other activities.

This policy was reviewed by staff in April 2024.

Ratified by Kildare Place School Board of Management on 29<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.

Signed: Revd Rob Jones. \_\_\_\_\_ – Date: \_\_\_\_\_