



KILDARE PLACE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Why give Homework?

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

To provide a link between teacher and parent.

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 practise 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 – no more, no less.

Unfortunately, as part of the implementation of the school's Code of Behaviour pupils may occasionally receive 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 given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:

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 off" as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.

Pupils who attend Learning Support in the school may also receive additional spellings or reading to help reinforce their daily learning.

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.

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
Rang 1	20 to 30 minutes
Rang 2	20 to 30 minutes
Rang 3	30 to 40 minutes
Rang 4	30 to 40 minutes
Rang 5	45 to 1 hour 15 minutes
Rang 6	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 write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

How often should parents monitor homework?

Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal or reading record every evening.

The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is particularly valuable as a means of communication between parents and teachers.

Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal)

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, child minders etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh. 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.

Kildare Place School – Typical homework for pupils

6th Class**Monday to Thursday**

Min of One piece of written work (generally work to complete from class)

Spelling Activities

5-10 Irish Phrases per week

5-10 Maths Questions per week + Tables

Reading

+ Study on some nights (eg for end of week tests)

5th Class**Monday to Thursday**

One piece of written work (20-25 Minutes)

Maths (20-25 mins) generally 10 questions

4 English Spellings
3 Irish spellings
Tables
English + Irish Reading
Occasional poetry/Irish verb every week

4th Class

Monday to Thursday

One piece of written work
8 English spellings
3 Irish spellings
Tables
English/Irish Reading
Occasional poetry/Irish vocabulary learning

3rd Class

Monday to Thursday

One piece of written work
Maths
4 English Spellings
2 Irish Spellings
Tables
English Reading
Occasional poetry/Irish vocabulary learning

2nd Class

Monday to Thursday

One piece of written work
6 English spellings
Tables
English Reading
Irish Reading (usually once a fortnight)
Occasional poetry learning

1st Class

Monday to Thursday

Reading
4 English Spellings per night
Addition and Subtraction Tables (from end of Sept/early Oct)
1 piece of other work

Senior Infants

Reading every 2nd day
From Sept- half term (Halloween) 1 piece a week
After half term - two pieces of work a week (usually Mon-English and Wed – Maths)

Junior Infants

Encouragement to read, talk, go on visits etc at home
Reading from Oct – progressing from wordbags to class readers
Reading of class readers
Occasionally writing/colouring/cutting exercises

This policy was reviewed by staff in January 2013.

Ratified by Kildare Place School Board of Management on 11th March, 2013.

Signed: Neil Mc Endo Chairperson.