

HOMEWORK POLICY – Glasheen Boys’ School

(Last Reviewed **March 2017**)

This Homework Policy was first prepared in 2003, following a consultation process with pupils, parents and teachers. In the meantime, the policy has been reviewed, several times. This latest review and consultation took place in February/March 2017.

1. Why Give Homework?

- (a) To consolidate what the child learns in school.
- (b) To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- (c) To develop concentration and good study habits.

2. When Is Homework Given?

Homework is given from **Monday to Thursday** but normally not at weekends. There are two exceptions:

- (a) If homework has been neglected consistently during the week.
- (b) In senior classes, project work may be undertaken at weekends or in advance of assessment tests, homework may also be set. Sometimes children are given “homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

3. How Long Should Homework Take?

Different children will complete the **same** homework in **different lengths** of time, depending on levels of concentration, distractions, time of the year etc. It is the quality and not the quantity of the homework that matters.

The following are general **guidelines** only:

Junior Infants	Approximately 15 minutes
Senior Infants	Approximately 20 minutes
1 st Class	Up to 30 minutes
2 nd Class	Up to 35 minutes
3 rd Class	Up to 45 minutes
4 th Class	Up to 45 minutes – 1 hour
5 th Class	Up to 1 hour/1 hour 15mins
6 th Class	Up to 1 hour 30 minutes.

4. For Children Attending Resource, Learning Support or EAL?

Special arrangements may have to be made in certain cases – e.g.

- (a) Those with **particular difficulty** with spelling – these may be covered in **Learning Support Room**.
- (b) Certain items of homework may be done for the **Resource Teacher** which would exempt that pupil from some class homework, as agreed by the class teacher.
- (c) Other pupils, following arrangements between teacher and parent, could complete a reduced amount of class homework.

5. How Much Help Should Parents Give?

Sometimes when a child is having difficulty with homework, he will tell, when asked, that the **work** was not **explained in class**. This is highly unlikely. Normally, it might take some children longer to grasp certain new topics **or** a particular child may have been tired or inattentive at the particular time.

Parents should help by:

- (a) Providing a **suitable place and time**, as well as copies and pens/pencils required to do homework.
- (b) By giving a simple explanation only when a child is having difficulty. Parents should **not** do the homework.
- (c) Writing a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- (d) Listen to their child, reading aloud, especially in Junior Infants, Senior Infants & 1st Class.
- (e) Helping with Spellings, Tables etc.

6. How Often Should Parents Monitor Homework?

- (a) Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal **every evening**.
- (b) The Journal (1st. – 6th. Classes) is an important record of homework and a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- (c) Please ensure that your child **uses** his **homework journal every night** and ticks each item **when completed**.
- (d) Please check your child's journal / folder / bag, for **notes**, on a regular basis.

7. How Often Do Teachers Monitor Homework?

- (a) Ideally, teachers like to check homework on a regular basis, when time allows.
- (b) As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day/once a week.
- (c) Some homework is corrected orally and checked by the children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This may involve elements of self-assessment and peer review, both recognised as useful parts of the learning process for children.

8. When Should Parents Communicate With Teachers About Homework?

- (a) When a child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- (b) When a child cannot understand some aspect.
- (c) If the time spent at homework is **often** longer than the recommended time.

9. **When Pupils Are Absent:**

- (a) Parents should notify the school when a child is absent, or is due to be absent, for any reason.
- (b) In cases of long-term, unavoidable absence, when the child returns to school, following consultation between the parent and teacher, every effort should be made to ensure the child has not fallen behind.

10. **When Should Homework Be Done?**

Ideally, soon after school, without distraction from television or devices. Each family situation is different, however and working parents may need to check homework later. Homework should **never** be left until morning time before school.

11. **Homework Club**

A Homework Club is run in the school from 2.30 – 3.30 p.m., from Monday to Thursday, for which there is a nominal charge. This is an opportunity for children to do their homework immediately after school. All parents must still check homework and keep in touch with what work their children are doing. Learning work such as spellings should be checked regularly.

PLEASE 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.

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Signed: *Máire Calnan* Chairperson B.O.M.