

# Crusheen National School

## Homework Policy

Following consultation with the Staff, the In-School Management Team, **the Parents' Council** and the Board of Management of Crusheen NS, the following policy was reviewed in February 2015. It was ratified by the Board of Management of Crusheen NS in March 2015.

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Crusheen N.S. we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills learned in class.
- It fosters self-organisation and supports independent problem-solving skills
- It gives parents the opportunity to get involved in their child's learning. Parental involvement has a positive impact on children's educational attainment levels.
- It encourages the pupils to take learning beyond the constraints of the classroom and to see the importance of school work in their own lives.
- It enables the pupils to develop study skills which are crucial to success at secondary school and in later life.

It also enables the teacher:

- To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.
- To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.
- To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.
- To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional challenge.

Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects and portfolios, diagnostic and standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil's progress and development as they move through the school. All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks may be designed to consolidate the child's classroom learning experiences. Other tasks will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Children will also be involved in interactive assignments that allow a few days for completion according to the age profile of the class grouping. Reading practice is a priority for all children.

In Junior Infants, the children receive an outline plan of their homework for the week. Their homework is placed in their homework folder each afternoon to be returned the following morning.

**The time required for homework varies by class as follows:**

- Junior Infants: 10-15 minutes
- Senior Infants: 15-20 minutes
- 1st and 2nd classes: 20-30 minutes
- 3rd and 4th classes: 30-45 minutes
- 5th and 6th classes: 45 minutes-60 minutes

These times are guidelines; some children may complete the work in less time. However, if your child is taking more than the guideline time, please confer with the class teacher. Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday, (September-June) leaving the weekend free for family activities. However, pupils may be asked to complete unfinished work at weekends. Homework missed due to illness does not normally have to be completed. Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to younger children every day.

Children involved in **Accelerated Reader** are encouraged to continue with their reading activities during the week end. The following are the recommended times children should spend reading according to the Accelerated Reader Programme.

- First Class: 15 mins
- Second Class: 20 mins
- Third Class: 25 mins
- Fourth Class: 30 mins
- Fifth Class: 35 mins
- Sixth Class: 40 mins

The nature of the homework assigned will inevitably vary during such times as Book Week, Seasonal festivities, preparation for First Holy Communion or Confirmation masses, Parent-Teacher meetings. Occasionally pupils may be given a night off (or a Homework Pass) as a reward for a special effort made by the class or by an individual.

Teachers endeavour to assign homework which will fit pupils' learning styles and interests. Homework assignments are differentiated where necessary to suit the children's learning needs. This enables every child to have a positive attitude to doing homework and experience successful outcomes in the process.

If parents have concerns about their child's homework, they should make an appointment with the class teacher. This would allow for discussion of possible strategies and modifications to homework tasks which would support the child in their learning and enable them to have a more positive experience of doing homework.

Where problems arise with homework on a regular basis the class teacher will arrange a meeting with the child's parents to discuss the matter and endeavour to resolve any difficulties. If homework assignments are not completed on an ongoing basis following efforts made by the teacher to support the pupil, the matter may be brought to the attention of the Principal. The Principal and class teacher will meet the parents to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

**We ask pupils to support our Homework policy by:**

- Writing homework accurately and clearly into their homework journal at school each day
- Bringing home copies and text books which will be needed to complete homework assignments
- Completing homework activities to the best of their ability
- Presenting written work neatly and keeping their copies and books in good order

**We ask parents to support our Homework Policy by:**

- Providing a suitable environment for their child to do their homework.  
Distractions such as T.V./computer games etc should be kept to a minimum until homework has been completed.
- Checking that the homework is completed and signing the homework journal.
- Discussing interesting aspects of the work assigned.
- Using the method suggested by the teacher for the learning of spellings.
- Regularly checking memorisation of tables.
- Informing teachers of problems when they arise.

This policy was ratified by the BoM in March 2015

**Signed ;** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Gerry Kennedy, Chairperson BoM**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_