



Homework Policy

Our School

Ashbourne Educate Together N.S is a multi-denominational co-educational school that will cater for pupils from Junior Infants up to Sixth class. Our school is under the patronage of Educate Together. Our school is based on the four key principles; we are multi-denominational, child-centred, co-educational and democratically run.

Introduction

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. We in Ashbourne Educate Together N.S value the importance of a link with the home and parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians can assist and monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework journals and the content therein. Communication between parents/guardians and teachers is also facilitated through the homework journal. Through this policy we hope to strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Ashbourne Educate Together N.S has been formulated by the teaching staff in consultation with other staff members, the pupils, parent representatives, the Principal and the Board of Management.

Relationship to School Ethos

The philosophy of an Educate Together school is four pronged; it is a child-centered, democratically run, multi-denominational and co-educational school. Ashbourne Educate Together N.S seeks to enable each child to develop his or her potential within this context. Homework given will reflect this ethos where parental involvement is encouraged and stereotyping of content in cultural, social, religious or economic terms will not take place, as far as possible.

Rationale and Aims

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, cooperation and responsibility for life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent and encourages parental involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. However it can be a valuable opportunity for parents to provide 1 to 1 support to their child in areas where they need it. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be

used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

Content

Usually, homework contains 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, writing, 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 work is well done. Written work should always be neatly presented.

How often is homework given?

Each teacher has their own homework system and this will be communicated to parents/guardians at the start of the year. Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. Homework will not be given to children who miss school or for short-term illnesses or holidays, this is at the teachers discretion.

Please note:

- 1). If homework has been neglected during the week or if the homework presented is not satisfactory, the pupil may be asked to complete the unfinished work at the weekend. This will be communicated in writing to the child's parents in the homework journal.
- 2). Children may be asked to undertake some research/project work and the time span given could run over weekends. Friday, Saturday, Sunday could then be used to complete the work.

From time to time children will be given a night off homework as a treat, reward or to mark a special occasion. This will be at the discretion of the class teacher and in consultation with the Principal.

Recommended time for homework

The following are general guidelines for time to be spent on homework. As the child progresses through the school the time spent on homework will increase. It is important to remember it is the *quality* not the *quantity* of homework that matters. The focus is on the effort put in by the child. It is also important to note that if homework is causing your child stress or it is taking longer than the recommended length of time please inform your child's teacher.

Please see guidelines below

*Junior/Senior Infants	5-10 minutes in duration max
1st/2nd Class	20 minutes in duration max
3rd/4th Class	30 minutes in duration max
5th/6th Class	45 minutes in duration max
Evergreen A&B	In line with individualised class grouping and at Evergreen teachers discretion

**Homework for Junior Infants will not start until October at the earliest, after a parent-information night has been held.*

Pupils

There is an Educate Together homework diary in operation from first class onwards. This is used by the class teacher and parents as a good communication tool between the home and the school. Pupils should endeavour to enter homework accurately in their homework diary (where applicable). They should ensure that they take home relevant books and copies. They should complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with a large class and taking into account a busy school life, this is not always possible. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Some items of homework may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

Guidelines for Parents

- From First Class onwards homework journals will be used. All allocated homework will be recorded there. Children should tick each item as it has been completed.
- In Junior and Senior Infants, where homework journals will not be used, information about homework will be communicated to parents by the class teacher on a weekly basis throughout the week by means of the homework information sheet or through the online learning platform SeeSaw. Parents of children in Infant Classes should check their child's school bag regularly and keep the homework folder up to date.
- Parents should ensure that children begin homework early in the evening at a regular and convenient time after coming home from school. The allocated homework time

should be free from interruptions. Homework should not be left until the following morning.

- The child should be sitting comfortably at a table and in a room where there are few distractions i.e. from TV/Screens or other children.
- If the child is working independently, try to be available to help where necessary. Check the work being done and praise at every opportunity.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by the child and it is normally based on the work being done in school. The teacher prepares all homework. Parents should help only where the child is experiencing difficulty. However, if your child is persistently having problems with homework, or is taking overly long to complete allocated tasks we would ask you to contact the class teacher to discuss the difficulties.
- Parents should not do homework for their children.
- If, on occasion, the homework cannot be either done or completed, please let the teacher know via a note in the homework journal or through the school email
- Parents should sign the homework journal nightly to confirm that homework has been checked and completed.
- Parents should check the Parent/Teacher communication in their child's journal regularly.

Incomplete Homework

When homework is not done, an explanation note is required by the teacher. If it is not done regularly, the teacher will contact the parent(s) or guardian(s) with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter will be brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the Parent(s) or Guardian(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Online Learning/Covid-19 Guidelines

Since September 2020 the school has gradually introduced new online platforms (Seesaw Infants- 2nd and Google Classroom 3rd- 6th). These online platforms have been introduced to pupils by teachers during the school day and now they form part of your child's school homework.

We introduced these platforms as part of homework so if ever there was a time where we had to rely more heavily on online learning, the children and parents would be more comfortable and confident using the platforms as they would have experience of using these already on a regular basis.

Online learning platforms have great benefits and there are also challenges. As issues arise, we as a school will do our best to address these.

Two-way feedback between home and school: (The pupil and the teacher)

AETNS are providing a manageable and accessible opportunity for all pupils to regularly share samples of their work with the class teacher throughout each week by using the digital platforms Seesaw and Google Classroom.

Currently pupils are receiving some elements of homework each week on Seesaw or Google Classroom.

- Depending on the type of homework given on Seesaw and Google Classroom feedback may be given by the teacher on these platforms
- Seesaw and Google Classroom are not a means for parents and teachers to communicate. Parents who wish to make contact with the class teacher should do so by using the normal methods of email through the office. **Class teachers are not in a position to respond to parents through the online platforms**
- If a teacher needs to communicate with a parent they are to do so using the Aladdin/email system already in place in the school
- Any questions/queries/concerns about your child's homework can be addressed by the class teacher the next day in school between your child and their teacher
- Seesaw and Google Classroom should not be a means for students to communicate with teachers about events occurring during the school day.
- We would ask that only work assigned by the teacher is uploaded onto the platform

This Policy was Ratified by the Board of Management on : 29th September 2021

This Policy will be reviewed as necessary

Signed:



Chairperson of Board of Management
Date: 1/09/22

Signed:



Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management
Date: 1/09/22