

HOMEWORK POLICY 2011



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Introductory Statement

The Central Model Infants' School is a co-educational school, under the patronage of the Minister of Education. The Central Model Infants' School is an inclusive, child centred Learning Community. Respectful relationships are fundamental to us. We achieve excellence through high expectations, teamwork and shared leadership. We aim to nourish and develop each child's sense of their own self-worth as an individual and celebrate their unique gifts and talents

1 Introduction

1.1 Homework is anything that children do outside of the normal school day that contributes to their learning. Homework can be a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents to support children's learning. It should be achievable but can also provide opportunities for creativity and fun.






2 Rationale for Homework

2.1 Our school seeks to enable each child to reach his/her learning potential. We believe that doing homework encourages children to work independently and take responsibility for their own learning.

2.2 Homework can play a very positive role in raising the educational levels of the child and also their family. It provides an essential link between parents and teachers and also communicates to parents some of what their child is learning in school.

3 Why give homework?

3.1 Our aims are:

-  To reinforce work done in class.
-  To improve pupils' skills as independent learners.
-  To develop concentration skills and foster a work ethic for now and the future.
-  To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes.
-  To develop parents' skills in supporting and understanding their child's learning.

4 Who does homework?


4.1 All children in our school may be given homework. Each child's ability, needs and age are taken into account.

4.2 Pupils with special educational needs will be given homework suitable to their ability. Class teachers and Resource/Learning support teachers will collaborate regularly with each other and with parents to ensure this.

5 What kind of homework?

5.1 We place a very strong emphasis on reading. The very first homework a Junior Infant gets is a library book to share with a parent/guardian. Also, each child at all class levels may take a book home that has been chosen to match his/her reading ability. The teacher may give a new book each day or decide to send one for longer.

5.2 Homework may regularly contain:

-  Reading

- ✚ Cut up sentences
- ✚ learning “by heart” e.g. a rhyme
- ✚ spellings
- ✚ tables
- ✚ writing
- ✚ drawing
- ✚ finishing off work from class.

6 How much homework/time?

6.1 Different children will complete the same tasks at different speeds. The amount may vary from day to day. We value quality over quantity. The following are general guidelines:

- ✚ Junior Infants 0-10 minutes
- ✚ Senior Infants Up to 20 minutes
- ✚ First Class Up to 30 minutes

6.2 We do not give homework at weekends or at holiday time.

7. The role of parents

- 7.1 We acknowledge the role of parents as the child’s first educator. Their involvement in their child’s learning is vital.
- 7.2 We invite parents to a meeting at the start of the school year at which we explain how they can help with their child’s homework. We also invite them to observe modeled reading sessions in school so that both parent and teacher use similar approaches to helping the child.
- 7.3 Parents can support their child by:
- ✚ Making a quiet time to do homework early in the day.
 - ✚ Bringing their child to the library
 - ✚ Getting involved in local homework clubs.

We invite parents to come in and talk with the class teacher if they have any problems or questions about homework. Our information booklet contains advice about homework for parents of new pupils.

7.4 It is the policy of this school to encourage parents to read, access educational materials in libraries or on the internet etc. Teachers do not provide homework for children who are being taken on holiday during the school term.

8. Homework clubs

8.1 The school has very positive links with clubs in the area. Club staff visit the school and teachers visit the clubs. This helps with consistency in doing homework.

9. Monitoring and Review of Policy

Catherine Groves and the ISMT will take responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the homework policy in the school. The Board of management has overall responsibility for agreeing and monitoring this policy.

11. Implementation Date

Our homework policy was implemented in November 2006. The policy was reviewed and updated in November 2011.

12. Ratification and Communication

This Homework Policy was ratified by the Board of Management:-

Signed: _____ Chairperson – Board of Management.

Date _____