



LISVERNANE NS



Homework Policy

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

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice 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. Members of the whole school community have been consulted and involved in updating this policy.

1) **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 practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with 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.

2) **How often is homework given?**

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

However there are exceptions:

- ◆ in senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends
- ◆ if homework has been neglected during the week
- ◆ as a punishment of Code of Discipline
- 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. In Lisvernane NS we also operate a reward system for children who have reached a set target in their stamp sheets. One of the prizes to be won is a Homework Pass. However, learning homework must be done at times as it can be a hindrance to progress if neglected.
Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if children have not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

3) **What is the content of homework?**

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between oral language, spellings, tables, 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, spellings, tables, written work, poetry pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class, tin whistle and brass practice.
- Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned thus ensuring your child's work is done well. Parents are also requested to sign the homework journal when homework is complete each night.
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4) **How much (time) 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	10 - 15 minutes
Senior Infants	10 - 15 minutes
Rang 1	20 – 30 minutes
Rang 2	20 – 30 minutes
Rang 3	45 minutes
Rang 4	45 minutes
Rang 5	1 hour
Rang 6	1 hour

5) **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.
- 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.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

6) **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents are responsible for checking and signing their child's homework **every evening**.
- The pupil's journal and Aladdin Connect is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- All written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal).
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Lisvernane NS letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal . Please check your child's journal for such notes on a regular basis

7) **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 every 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 classwork) may be checked by children themselves **under the direction of the teacher**. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

8) **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.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

9) **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 the information is still fresh in your child's mind). However, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school

10) **What happens when Homework is not done?**

When homework is not done it will be given again the following night. If homework is not done regularly the teacher will contact the parents with a view to resolving the situation.

11) Homework for Absent Children

Following a request from a parent/guardian for a teacher to prepare work for a child who is absent for a period of more than one week, the following procedures apply:

- If the child is absent due to illness, the class teacher will endeavour to provide some work in order to ensure that the child will not be too far behind class work on his/her return
- If the absence is due to holidays or other similar events then the advice is that the child should read during the time off.

At all times it is school policy to encourage children to attend school every day where possible, in this way all children will receive an equal opportunity to learn.

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.

LISVERNANE NATIONAL SCHOOL

HOMEWORK CONTRACT

I agree to do my homework every night. I will do my best to present my work neatly. I will do my homework where I can concentrate well.

Student Signature: _____

I/We the undersigned, agree to help with homework nightly and to ensure that it is completed.

Parent / Guardian: _____

List three things that would help me as a student to do my homework properly.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

List three things that would help me as a parent/guardian:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____