



Homework Policy

1. Introduction

We, at Nun's Cross School, view homework as an integral part of the school experience. Active, successful pupil participation in homework supports our beliefs of how children learn best.

Homework benefits pupils not only by promoting academic success but by also providing valuable opportunities to build character traits and life skills.

Through regular homework, pupils learn responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management. Most significantly, pupils grow in their independence by being able to successfully complete school-related tasks with a minimum of direct help.

2. Aims

- To consolidate work being done at school
- To keep parents in touch and involved in their children's work
- To develop a pupil's concentration skills, develop a work ethic and work towards the habit of independent study

3. Guidelines for Teachers

- Homework should be an integral part of the subject being taught and generally given in order to consolidate work done.
- The teacher will normally prepare and explain the homework before it is given. However, sometimes, particularly in senior classes, some homework is given to challenge a pupil's ability and provide opportunity for creativity.
- Homework must be consistent - a specific amount and given in such a way as to form a pattern for the children so that they are more likely to remember it.
- Teachers will aim to correct homework on a daily basis and, where possible, will give extra help if difficulties occur.
- Remain flexible to parent/guardian's concerns about unusual circumstances

4. Guidelines for Parents

- Establish a set routine and time for the child to do her homework, in a quiet place free from distractions or interruptions
- Supervise child's homework, checking and signing it on completion
- Help and encourage the child but not to do the homework for her
- Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school while the child is still fresh. Homework should not be left until morning time before school.
- Reading and/or shared reading is an important aspect of the pupil's homework and should be viewed as a vital part of the pupil's progress to becoming a good and confident reader.

5. Guidelines for Pupils

- Record all homework assignments and revision in your journal every day.
- Take homework assignments and all necessary supplies home.
- Spend the time necessary to complete homework assignments.
- Demonstrate pride in homework by doing the work well and to your potential.
- Seek assistance from parents/guardians if necessary.
- Submit finished homework to the teacher, neatly done, on time and have the journal signed.

6. Time

Allotted time that teachers expect the average child in each class to spend at homework: These are guidelines and different children will complete the homework in varying lengths of time.

Junior Infants	10-15 minutes
Senior Infants	15-25 minutes
First and Second	No more than 30 minutes
Third and fourth	30-45 minutes
Fifth class	45 minutes - 1 hour
Sixth class	1 hour - 1 hour 30 minutes (max.)

7. General Information

1. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.
2. The 'learning by rote' homework and oral homework are equally as important as the written homework.
3. Homework is given from Monday to Thursday.
4. Pupils in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends.
5. If a pupil has not done homework, made a suitable effort or has presented untidy work, she may be requested to complete it the following night.
6. If the child fails to complete the homework assignments within the recommended time span, parents are advised to stop the pupil. If the problem continues on a regular basis, parents are requested to contact the class teacher.
7. Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the Principal, children are given "homework off" as a reward for good behaviour or as acknowledgment of some special occasion.
8. Please note that extra homework may be given to a pupil as a consequence of behavioural or disciplinary issue.

Review date:

June 2018

Signed: _____ Chairman of the Board of Management

Date: _____