



**NPC**

SUPPORTING PARENTS  
SUPPORTING CHILDREN

# Homework

# Homework



Homework represents a regular link between home and school and as such represents a good opportunity for the development of a practical partnership between parents and teachers. All schools should have a homework policy which should be prepared in consultation with parents and children. The policy should give clarity to the whole school community about the purpose of the homework and what is expected at each class level.

## WHY DOES MY CHILD GET HOMEWORK?

Your child gets homework to:

1. Practice and reinforce work already done in class
2. Test your child's understanding of work covered or competence in skills
3. Provide an opportunity for the child to work independently and develop self discipline
4. Provide an opportunity for your child to use non-school resources (parents, library, environment, media and internet)
5. Provide a means by which you, as parents, can see the sort of work which your child is doing in school, and this in turn will enable you to assess their progress
6. Engage you as partners in your child's education in an active way and so become involved in your child's learning.

## HOMEWORK SHOULD:

1. Be suited to the capabilities of pupils, your child should be able to attempt homework within a reasonable time frame
2. Have a purpose
3. Be properly explained to children in advance
4. Be checked by the teacher
5. Be supervised/checked/signed off by parents
6. Be consistent with policy applying throughout the school.

## HOW MUCH HOMEWORK SHOULD MY CHILD EXPECT?

The amount of homework in each class and the time to be allocated to it are key features of the school's homework policy. As a parent you need to be fully familiar with this policy, so as to manage the time allocated at home for your child.

In general the following guidelines apply:

Junior/Senior infants: No formal homework but perhaps some drawing, preliminary reading, matching shapes and pictures or listening to stories read by parents.

First/Second class: 20-30 minutes

Third/Fourth class: 30-40 minutes

Fifth/Sixth class: 40-60 minutes

Normally schools do not give homework at weekends.

It must be stressed that these are suggested target times. In practice, the time taken will depend on the individual child.



## HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

You should set aside a time each day for homework, taking into account other needs such as recreation and family circumstances.

As a parent, you have a really important role to play in:

- Encouraging your child's work
- Observing their work
- Ensuring that your child has a quiet environment to work in. The television or other distractions should not be taking place during the time allocated to homework
- Making sure your child has all the necessary equipment e.g. pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener etc.
- Being nearby in case of questions; don't take over
- Acknowledging and respecting effort, honesty and enthusiasm. By doing this, your child will progress and develop at their own pace, in a safe and relaxed environment
- Being consistent. Discuss, monitor, check and sign homework every night.

Your child will make mistakes, Encourage them to find and correct their own mistakes. Children must be able to accept that making mistakes is part of the learning process and it is important that they can go back and try a different method or approach.

## WHAT SHOULD I DO IF THERE IS A PROBLEM WITH MY CHILD'S HOMEWORK?

If you notice a problem with your child's homework, whether they have difficulty with a particular aspect of it, they can't complete it in the time set, or any other problem, you should alert your child's teacher as soon as possible. Write a note in their homework notebook if they have one or make an appointment to speak to the teacher.

If there is a change in home circumstances, such as a new baby, illness of a parent or any other reason, you should inform your child's teacher. This will assist both the teacher and your child.



**NPC**

SUPPORTING PARENTS  
SUPPORTING CHILDREN

National Parents Council

12 Marlborough Court, Dublin 1

Tel: +353 1 887 4034 • Email: [info@npc.ie](mailto:info@npc.ie)

Information/Helpline:

Tel: +353 1 887 4477 • Email: [helpline@npc.ie](mailto:helpline@npc.ie)

[www.npc.ie](http://www.npc.ie)