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## HOMEWORK POLICY

### **Introduction**

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Carnaross National School we regard homework as important and to be of great benefit to pupils for the following reasons. It allows pupils the opportunity to revise and consolidate skills learned in class and provide pupils and parents with an opportunity to be involved in the pupils work to their mutual benefit. Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday September to May. All homework Preparation takes place in class.

### **Role of Parent/Guardian**

- ◇ Homework should be signed by a parent/guardian each night. This provides an informal link between the home and school on a daily basis.
- ◇ Having a homework routine at home is very important. A quiet table and chair to work at, away from distractions such as television or telephone, is vital.
- ◇ Time spent on homework should not be excessive. Where a parent/guardian considers that the child has made his/her best effort and is unwilling or unable to continue, the parent/guardian should sign-off the child's work and indicate the time spent.
- ◇ Tests should be signed by a parent/guardian when sent home to confirm that the parent/guardian has noted the results.
- ◇ Some homework may require the parent to take the lead at home, especially in junior classes.
- ◇ If homework has not been completed, an explanation note should be set in to the teacher.

### **Types of Homework**

As well as writing and memorising, homework can involve practical tasks. Some examples are given below.

#### ***Written homework***

Written homework can include completing comprehension questions in English or Irish, or other areas of the curriculum, e.g., history, geography or science. Homework in mathematics usually involves completing computational or problem-solving exercises.

#### ***Practical homework***

This type of homework is equally important. The time devoted to it and the eventual outcome can vary considerably, depending on what is needed. Children are often very motivated to complete these types of tasks.

Examples of practical homework include

- interviews, researching – library, internet or other resources;
- collecting items for science or art, making something (e.g., a cardboard construction);
- music practice: singing or playing;
- viewing a television programme for specific information or point of view.

### ***Memorisation homework***

*Memorisation plays a very important role in learning.*

Memorisation or learning-by-heart homework can often be completed in a very short space of time, but requires the support of an adult to check that the child has correctly learned the facts or to act as ‘audience’. This can entail the learning of tables in mathematics, the words of songs, poetry or lines in a play, or lists in context, for example counties of Ireland. Short items for memorisation can benefit from being ‘topped-up’ outside of normal homework times, for instance, while travelling to or from school.

### ***Study homework***

In senior classes, study skills such as locating information or discovery learning in a passage, finding the main points, or distinguishing between fact and opinion can form part of homework. These skills are very important for learning as children progress through school or college, and for lifelong learning.

### **Homework in all classes**

- ◇ Reading for pleasure or for information should *always* feature as part of homework, whether or not it has been allocated by the teacher. Reading to your child and listening to your child read can be of great benefit to the child’s progress in reading and overall learning.
- ◇ Talking about school, home matters, incidental events in the neighbourhood or at a national level, explaining appropriate details in simple terms and inviting the child to express his or her opinion can aid language development and strengthen the bond between home and school.

### **Completing homework**

**Rewards and Sanctions** *(This applies mainly in senior level classes)*

Teachers may operate a reward system for pupils who are consistent in their efforts and application to homework. In general, and as a precautionary measure, where a pupil cannot offer a written explanation for incomplete homework on three or more occasions in succession, parents will be contacted.

### **Time**

*The following outline of suggested homework should be taken as a guide, allowing room for flexibility where necessary.*

Reminder: A quiet table and chair, and maybe a timing device away from distractions such as television and telephone is vital for completion of work within the time suggested.

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| <b>Homework in Junior and Senior Infants</b> | <b>Suggested Time: 5-10 minutes</b>  |
| <b>Homework in First and Second Classes</b>  | <b>Suggested Time: 15-20 minutes</b> |
| <b>Homework in Third and Fourth Classes</b>  | <b>Suggested Time: 30-40 minutes</b> |
| <b>Homework in Fifth and Sixth Classes</b>   | <b>Suggested Time: 45-60 minutes</b> |

Revised September 2017

\* Ratified by Board of Management on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Signed : *Tommy Sheridan*  
Chairperson Board of Management