



Woodstock Educate Together NS Homework Policy:

Ag Fás Le Chéile- Ag Foghláim Le Chéile:

Aims:

At Woodstock Educate Together N.S., we value the importance of a link with the home and parents/guardians. Homework can be an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Through this policy we hope to strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of Woodstock Educate Together N.S is formulated through consultation with teaching staff, the pupils, parent representatives, the Principal and the Board of Management.

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

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. It can be used to practice what is done in school or can be designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

This policy for Woodstock Educate Together National School has been adapted from official guidelines from the Primary Professional Development Service.

What are the aims of homework?

- That children develop work and study skills on a gradual basis aiming at independent study by senior level.
- That the children form good work habits.
- That the children learn to organize themselves.
- That the children learn to take responsibility for their work.

What are the objectives of homework?

- To practice existing concepts and skills
- To ensure that there is complete understanding of new concepts.
- To consolidate what is learnt in class

Why give homework?

- To reinforce the child's memory of what he/she has learned during the day.
- To provide a link between home and school
- To give opportunities for parents/guardians to learn more about their child's day at school

- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic that will prepare them for the demands of secondary school and encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning
- Homework should be achievable for the child while allowing appropriate opportunities to challenge them and extend their learning
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less

How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays with certain exceptions:

Homework can be completed over the course of the week to allow for flexibility for families but must be fully completed and returned by Friday morning.

How long should homework take?

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. *As always if any child is experiencing difficulties please inform the teacher whom will be able to offer suggestions and support.*

The following are general guidelines:

- **Junior Infants:** Nursery Rhymes, song and poems are used as Home activities to help children practice and become familiar with sounds and blending techniques. During the latter part of the year some informal tasks may be set, especially in Phonics: Phonics Sounds Copy or a Home-links activity. Time spent should only be **5-10 minutes** daily over the four days.
- **Senior Infants:** Tasks may include reading or a sheet of Math activities. Some informal tasks may also be set. Homework should take approximately **10 -15 minutes** daily over the four days.
- **1st & 2nd Class:** Homework should take approximately **15-25 minutes**. Spellings, Project work activities, reading or mathematics may be set.
- **3rd &4th Class:** homework should take approximately **20-35 minutes**. Homework is recorded in a homework diary. A variety of tasks may be set from the different subject areas.
- **5th & 6th Class:** homework should take approximately **30-45 minutes**. The tasks set would again be from the different subject areas of the curriculum.

Homework Content

Usually, homework contains reading, spelling, maths and a literacy based activity. However, it should be noted that homework time *devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.* Homework can contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, drawing/ colouring, collecting information/items, research, project work and finishing work started in class. Children often feel that reading and 'learning by heart' is not real homework. *Parents can play an important role in listening to reading* and items to be learned, ensuring this work is done well. When appropriate teachers will *aim to allow flexibility when completing project work* i.e. the method of presentation, focus of topic etc.

Tips for Parents/Guardians:

Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.

- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and Smart devices.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher if needs be.
- **Teachers should:** Set homework, review assignments and provide constructive feedback to students.
- Monitor homework to help identify pupils experiencing difficulties with homework

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally, teacher's check-in daily with the children to ensure there are no difficulties with the weeks' designated homework. Teacher's collect Homework/Folders on a Friday. At Woodstock ETNS we recognise that children all learn differently and at their own pace and are cognizant of different learning styles. At times some pupils may require added supports surrounding homework.

Working Together: *As a school we greatly appreciate life circumstances and change and interrupt routines. We ask parents/guardians to please inform the teacher or Principal so that in exceptional circumstance we can support both the family and pupil whilst continuing to foster the children's learning potential.*