

Homework Policy vMay2024

Introduction

This policy was formulated by the school management and staff in consultation with parents and children based on the current school practice and desired outcomes in the implementation of Homework. This policy works in conjunction with other school policies such as the school's Code of Positive Behaviour, Special Educational Needs Policy, Equality Policy. Homework can be an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. It helps parents monitor the progress of their child and provide support and encouragement where needed. This policy attempts to further strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the assigning and completion of homework.

This policy was reviewed following a comprehensive consultation with parents, staff and pupils. The school has endeavoured to meet the desired outcomes for children whilst also balancing with solutions to challenges faced by families in completing homework tasks. Everything we do must have purpose and meaning for the betterment of the children in our care.

Summary of this Homework Policy

General	The reasons for providing homework are maintaining a link with home and providing parents with an insight into their child's learning, to allow space for children to practice skills and reinforce work at their own level, to allow children to develop skills of independence, self-discipline and to engage parents as partners in their child's education											
Skills	The skills of homework will be taught in-school during the month of September. Homework will begin in October and will continue for the year. Homework will not be given during: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last week of term • Last two weeks of the school year • Other weeks that may be significant to the school community 											
Timing	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Class Groups</u></th> <th><u>Weekly time</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Infants</td> <td>Up to 1 hour</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1st & 2nd class</td> <td>Up to 1.5hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3rd & 4th class</td> <td>Up to 2 hours</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5th & 6th class</td> <td>Up to 2.5 hours</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<u>Class Groups</u>	<u>Weekly time</u>	Infants	Up to 1 hour	1 st & 2 nd class	Up to 1.5hours	3 rd & 4 th class	Up to 2 hours	5 th & 6 th class	Up to 2.5 hours
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Content	Homework will be assigned once per week with choice being the guiding principle. Teachers will offer homework in each of the core subjects with additional items relevant to the theme/learning at the time. Choice within tasks and choice between tasks will be imperative to ensure differentiation and access for all.											
Checking homework	Parents should check their childrens' homework each night to ensure they are completing tasks which are most relevant to their abilities and their interests. The checking of homework by teachers will be done based on the needs of the class and the individual pupils.											
Non completion	Non-completion of homework often indicates other problems. Teachers will communicate with the child and parents to offer support where necessary. Homework not completed may be done at another time.											

Vision and Ethos

Citywest & Saggart CNS is a multid denominational school that caters for children of all beliefs. The school takes an inclusive approach to education. Inclusive education affirms pluralism across difference in culture, gender, ability, beliefs/faiths, class, age, race, sexual orientation and family circumstances.

At the centre of the ethos of Citywest & Saggart CNS is respect, care, inclusion, belonging and equality. The school also encourages the active involvement of parents in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. The homework policy of this school aims to facilitate these ideals.

Rationale for Assigning Homework

The primary purposes of giving homework are as follows:

- Maintaining a link with home and providing parents with an insight into their child's learning
- Allow space for children to practice skills and reinforce work at their own level
- Allows children to develop skills of independence, self-discipline
- Engage parents as partners in their child's education

Homework **is not** busy work for the evenings or intended as new learning.

Aims and objectives of this policy

This Homework policy aims to:

- Further strengthen home-school links
- Standardise the assignment of homework across the school
- Ensure clarity on what is recommended and the school's approach to homework

School-wide approach to Homework

The school will employ a progressive approach to homework, where the assignment of homework becomes increasingly more formal in later primary to help with the transition to post-primary school. It should always be remembered that homework should not be new content, rather a practice of skills already mastered within the classroom.

Motivation

Teachers will endeavour to increase motivation in homework tasks, which will in turn help in building independent learning skills. Motivation will be increased through:

- Creative homework tasks
- Choice within the tasks assigned
- Greater flexibility in how and when tasks are completed
- Opportunities to share work in class
- Children's voice will be included in homework tasks to be completed

Time

Family time is precious and busy. With this in mind, we have prescribed the recommended amount of time that should be spent on homework each **week**. These times are just guidelines. 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.

<u>Class Groups</u>	<u>Weekly time</u>
Infants	Up to 1 hour
1 st & 2 nd class	Up to 1.5hours
3 rd & 4 th class	Up to 2 hours
5 th & 6 th class	Up to 2.5 hours

Frequency

Homework will be assigned once or twice per week, depending on the preference of the teacher and the needs of the class. For younger classes, the teachers will assist in informing parents how the work could be spread evenly throughout the week. In older classes, children will be allowed the freedom to complete the tasks in a suitable way throughout the week, with tasks being due on Friday. This provides children with the skills of being able to assess their time and develop how work can be balanced with leisure time.

Homework is not usually assigned at the weekends, with the exception of where work during the week has not been sufficiently completed in line with school/classroom expectations. Other occasions where homework will not be assigned are:

- First few weeks of the school year
- Last week of term
- Last two weeks of the school year
- Other weeks that may be significant to the school community

Content

Homework is generally based on class related tasks **already covered in class**. These tasks contain a balance of reading, written, learning and practice. These tasks can be completed and skills practiced throughout the week. Some tasks are recommended to be completed daily with others being done at the discretion of the child and parent. In some aspects, the children will be given the opportunity to focus on aspects of homework with which they require additional practice/reinforcement. This may change from week to week.

Infants and 1 st class	2 nd , 3 rd & 4 th class	5 th & 6 th class
Daily tasks: - Reading aloud/to self, bedtime reading - Core subjects		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sounds ● Handwriting ● Active activity/ afterschool club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spellings ● Choice Tasks menu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spellings ● Choice Tasks menu ● Project based work

Communication

Homework is communicated to parents in the following ways:

- Worksheets with a cover sheet explaining the homework within
- Aladdin Connect App
- Seesaw App

3rd to 6th class pupils will have a homework journal which will allow children to develop the life skill of scheduling homework over the course of the week.

Seesaw/Digital Technology

The Seesaw app may be used on occasion for the assignment of homework. The skills that children gain from using Seesaw are very important and useful. These also serve to maintain a level of proficiency in using the app in the case of closure where the Department of Education requests the continuation of remote learning. Seesaw and other related apps also allow the school to assign creative tasks and also allow for children to respond in a way that suits their own ability.

Checking Homework

Homework will be checked using different systems depending on the needs of the pupils and at the discretion of the teacher. Homework may be checked and assessed in a number of ways:

- Peer assessment (Children giving feedback on each others' work)
- Teacher correction
- Presentation by the child to the class
- Self-assessment (under the direction and guidance of the teacher)

It is expected that all children will complete the homework that is assigned for that week. The systems that are in place should make the homework accessible and possible. Where homework is not completed, the parents should make contact with the teacher regarding this. Children may be asked to complete any work not completed at another time that is not disruptive to their classwork.

Wellbeing

As part of the schools evolving wellbeing policy and practices, CSCNS will be continuing with Wellbeing Wednesday tasks. The aim of these tasks to promote wellbeing in a structured way for the children and give importance to this aspect of the children's development. CSCNS will continue to encourage a balance with desk-top homework and homework which encourages children to play, explore the outdoors and pursue their own passions, talents and hobbies.

Home-school links

One of our rationale for assigning homework is to communicate what the children are learning in school. In addition to tasks assigned, the teachers will provide a short blurb or the learning that has happened in the classroom. This will allow parents to supplement the homework assigned by the school

Additional Education Needs

The approach that we have adopted in this policy aims to cater for children of all abilities through the materials used, the choice given and the multiple ways to respond to tasks. However, it is acknowledged that some children may require individualised homework which is separate from that of the class.

Children who are withdrawn for additional support for Literacy or Maths may be assigned homework by their Support Teacher in the area specific to them. Children who are on the highest levels of support on the school's continuum of support may receive individualised homework relevant to the targets in their individual support plan.

The Home Environment

When children are completing their homework, they should have a suitable flat space with minimal distractions. School assigned homework, by its nature, should not require intensive parental input. There may be some times where a parent may need to assist:

- Learning something by heart
- Practicing something orally (E.g number facts etc)
- Listening to a child read

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers

- Assign homework in line with this policy
- Ensure work assigned is suited to the individual abilities of the children
- Monitor homework completion and communicate concerns to parents/school management

Parents

- Provide a suitable working environment for their children to complete homework
- Provide materials at home to help with the completion of homework (Spare pen, pencil, colours etc.)
- Check the completion of homework each day on which homework is completed
- Sign the homework/homework journal each week
- Communicate difficulties with homework to the class teacher via email or by writing a note on the homework itself.

Pupils

- Complete homework tasks to the best of their abilities
- Find help with homework if needed, particularly with learning tasks
- Bring completed work to school when requested by the teacher

Success Criteria



- Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents.
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils

Ratification / Communication

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 14th May 2024 and communicated to all parents.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed and, if necessary, amended in academic year 2026/2027 or sooner if required.

This policy was ratified by the school's Board of Management	
Signed:  Chairperson	Signed:  Principal
Date: 14/5/24	Date: 14/5/24