

Homework Policy for Light of Christ School Dunmore East, Co. Waterford

Introductory Statement

This policy was reviewed and edited by the staff together with the Board of Management and circulated to Parents for acceptance.

Rationale

To help clarify ambiguities and misunderstanding, that tend to arise in this area and to strengthen links between home and school.

Relationships with Characteristic spirit of the School

In Light of Christ School we acknowledge that Parents are the Primary Educators of their children and that home is central to the development of the person and the nurturing of Christian Values. We believe that it is essential that school and family strive to be naturally supportive of each other so that Light of Christ education may be effective.

Aims

- Homework is given to reinforce what the child has learnt during the day
- To further develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.

Guidelines

1. How often is homework given?

Homework is given On Monday, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child. i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more no less.

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off" as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion. Please note extra homework may be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

2. What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

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- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started at school.
- 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.

3. How much (time) homework?

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. The following are general guidelines only.

Children should be spending no longer than the following general guidelines:

Junior Infants	0 –10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 1 hour
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour 15 minutes
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour 30 minutes

4. How much help should parents give?

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
- To prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V or other children.

Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.

If a child has difficulty with homework the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parents should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parents and child.

5. How often should parents monitor homework?

- Parents should check and sign a child’s homework journal every evening.
- The pupil’s journal is an important record of the child’s homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.
- Ideally all written messages to your child’s teacher should be put in the homework journal (additional pages available at the end of the journal)
- Please check that your child records its homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.
- Communication and letters to parents are folded and placed in the current day of the homework journal. Please check your child’s journal for such notes on a regular basis.

6. How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child’s homework every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once per week.
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process of children.

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7. When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she cannot understand some aspects.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

8. When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different – both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong. This leads to poor learning, and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.

Success Criteria

Parents and teachers will develop a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of each others commitment to the child's education.

The child will benefit from the mutual involvement of both school and home in their education.

Roles and Responsibility

The homework policy will be circulated to Parents. It will be reviewed and clarified where necessary by staff.

Its effectiveness will be reviewed at parent teacher meetings.

Timeframe and Implementation

The Implementation of this revised policy will begin immediately

Timeframe for Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years.

Responsibility for Review

The staff and representative bodies will take responsibility for initiating of this policy.

Ratification and Communication

The policy document was ratified at a meeting of Board of Management of Light of Christ School and a copy of this document will be attached to school induction pack

Ratified at a Board of Management meeting on _____

Signed:

Chairperson B.O.M