

Claddaghduff N.S Homework Policy

1. Introduction

This Homework Policy has been developed by the staff and Board of Management of Claddaghduff National School in consultation with the school community. Homework is recognised as an important element of the teaching and learning process and provides an opportunity for pupils to consolidate and extend the learning that takes place during the school day.

Homework promotes the development of independence, responsibility, self-discipline, organisation and positive study habits. It also strengthens the partnership between home and school by enabling parents and guardians to support their child's learning.

Homework should be meaningful, achievable and appropriate to the age, ability and individual needs of each pupil. It should complement classroom learning and provide opportunities for practice, revision, creativity and independent thinking.

2. Rationale

This policy has been developed to:

- Strengthen the partnership between home and school.
- Reinforce and consolidate learning experiences.
- Promote positive attitudes towards learning and independent work.
- Ensure a consistent and equitable approach to homework across all class levels.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of pupils, parents/guardians and teachers.
- Support the individual learning needs and wellbeing of all pupils.

3. Relationship to the School Ethos

Claddaghduff National School is committed to providing a caring, inclusive and supportive learning environment where every child is encouraged to achieve their full potential.

This Homework Policy reflects the school's commitment to:

- Promoting the holistic development of each child.
- Catering for the diverse educational needs of pupils.
- Fostering independence, responsibility and resilience.
- Encouraging positive home-school collaboration.
- Supporting pupils in becoming confident and motivated lifelong learners.

4. Aims of Homework

The aims of homework are to:

- Consolidate and reinforce work completed in school.
- Develop independent learning and organisational skills.

- Foster responsibility and self-discipline.
- Promote good study habits and time management.
- Encourage creativity and critical thinking where appropriate.
- Provide opportunities for parental involvement in children's learning.
- Strengthen communication between home and school.
- Support the development of literacy, numeracy and oral language skills.

5. Nature of Homework

Homework may include:

- Reading.
- Learning spellings, tables and poems.
- Written assignments.
- Mathematical activities.
- Project work.
- Research activities.
- Oral language activities.
- Practical tasks.
- Creative work.
- Revision for assessments.
- Online learning activities where appropriate.

Homework will generally be differentiated to meet the varying needs and abilities of pupils. Occasionally, unfinished classwork may be assigned where deemed appropriate by the class teacher.

Digital platforms, including Seesaw or other school-approved applications, may be used to enhance teaching and learning and to facilitate communication between home and school.

6. Time Allocation

The following are recommended guidelines for the average amount of time pupils should spend on homework. Individual pupils may require more or less time depending on their abilities and learning needs.

Class Level	Approximate Time
Junior and Senior Infants	10 minutes
First and Second Class	15–20 minutes
Third and Fourth Class	30–35 minutes
Fifth and Sixth Class	40–45 minutes

Homework is generally assigned from Monday to Thursday.

Homework is not normally assigned at weekends or during school holidays. However, pupils in the middle and senior classes may occasionally be encouraged to undertake reading, project work or independent learning activities.

Teachers may occasionally award a Homework Pass as part of the school's positive behaviour and motivation strategies.

If homework is taking significantly longer than the recommended time on a regular basis, parents/guardians are encouraged to inform the class teacher.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Record homework accurately in their homework journal.
- Bring home the necessary books and materials.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Present written work neatly and carefully.
- Return completed homework on time.
- Take increasing responsibility for organising and managing their homework.

Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians play an important role in supporting homework by:

- Encouraging a positive attitude towards learning.
- Providing a suitable environment and regular routine for homework.
- Encouraging independence while offering appropriate support.
- Checking that homework is completed.
- Signing the homework journal where required.
- Listening to reading and oral work where appropriate.
- Communicating any difficulties or concerns to the class teacher.
- Ensuring children have the necessary materials for the following school day.
- Supporting the appropriate use of digital learning platforms.

Parents are not expected to teach new concepts or complete homework on behalf of their child.

Teachers

Teachers will:

- Assign purposeful and appropriate homework.
- Differentiate homework where necessary.
- Explain homework clearly.
- Provide opportunities for feedback and correction.
- Monitor homework completion and identify pupils experiencing difficulties.

- Encourage independent learning and good study habits.
- Make appropriate use of digital technologies to support learning.
- Maintain communication with parents regarding homework concerns.

8. Pupils with Additional Educational Needs

Homework will, where appropriate, be differentiated to meet the individual needs of pupils with additional educational needs.

Reasonable accommodations may include:

- Reduced volume of work.
- Alternative tasks.
- Practical or oral activities.
- Additional support materials.

Teachers will exercise professional judgement to ensure that homework supports learning and promotes positive engagement and success.

9. Homework Difficulties

Occasionally, pupils may experience difficulties completing homework due to illness, family circumstances or other factors.

Parents/guardians should communicate any concerns to the class teacher through the homework journal, Seesaw or other agreed methods of communication.

Teachers will work collaboratively with families to address any ongoing concerns.

10. Assessment and Evaluation of Homework

Homework forms part of the school's ongoing assessment practices.

Teachers may evaluate homework through:

- Observation.
- Oral feedback.
- Written feedback.
- In-class correction.
- Peer and self-assessment where appropriate.
- Teacher-designed tasks and tests.
- Monitoring homework journals.
- Parent-teacher meetings.
- Pupil profiles and assessment records.

Homework is intended to support learning and provide constructive feedback rather than act as a source of stress or unnecessary pressure.

12. Success Criteria

The effectiveness of this policy will be measured through:

- Positive pupil engagement.
- Consistent homework practices across the school.
- Feedback from pupils, parents and staff.
- Parent-teacher meetings.
- Teacher observation.
- School self-evaluation processes.
- Improved home-school communication.

13. Ratification and Communication

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Claddaghduff National School.

A copy of the policy is available to staff and parents/guardians and is published on the school website.

14. Implementation and Review

The Principal and teaching staff are responsible for the implementation of this policy.

The policy will be reviewed every three years, or earlier if required due to changes in legislation, Department of Education guidance or school circumstances.

Ratification

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Claddaghduff National School on 15th June 2026.

Chairperson: 

Principal: 

Date: 15th June 2026.