

**Kilmessan Mixed NS**

**Homework Policy**

**Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Kilmessan Mixed National School we**

**regard homework as important for the following reasons:**

**It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise and consolidate skills & content learned in class.**

**It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.**

**It promotes a similar approach to homework across all classes.**

**It can involve parents and family in the pupil’s work, to their mutual benefit.**

**It gives pupils an opportunity for independent learning and study.**

**It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at post-primary school and in**

**later life.**

**It also enables the teacher:**

**To monitor pupil progress with a view to improving standards.**

**To provide pupils and parents with clear and relevant feedback.**

**To suggest strategies for improvement and goals to be achieved.**

**To seek extra resources to support those pupils in need of additional help or additional**

**challenges.**

**Homework, along with schoolwork, teacher observation, projects, portfolios, diagnostic and**

**standardised tests all lay the foundation for providing an overall picture of a pupil’s progress**

**and development as they move through the school.**

**All pupils are assigned homework appropriate to their age and class level. Some of their tasks**

**may be designed to consolidate the child’s classroom learning experiences, while other tasks**

**will encourage the child to work independently and with initiative. Children with learning difficulties may be given differentiated homework tasks where appropriate.**

**Reading practice is a priority for all children.**

**In the Infant classes, the children receive a homework sheet on Monday, with homework tasks laid out for the week ahead. In older classes, homework is written daily in the Homework Journal. Parents are asked to check all homework daily & sign the journal or Homework Sheet as appropriate on completion of the work.**

**The time required for homework varies by class as follows:**

**Junior Infants:    10­15 minutes**

**Senior Infants:    15­20 minutes**

**1st and 2nd classes:   20­30 minutes**

**3rd and 4th classes:   30­45 minutes**

**5th and 6th classes:  45­60 minutes**

**The above times are guidelines only & some children may complete the work in less time. However, if**

**your child is regularly taking more than the guideline time, please consult with the class teacher.**

**Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday (September­June), leaving the weekend free for**

**family activities. However, pupils may be asked to complete unfinished work at weekends.**

**Children are encouraged to read for pleasure every day and parents are encouraged to read to**

**younger children every day.**

**Homework usually contains a balance between reading, learning & written tasks. This balance can vary considerably from day to day & at different times of the year. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading & learning is as important as time spent on written tasks. Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be learned ‘off by heart’, drawing/colouring, colleting items/information & finishing work started in class. Children sometimes feel that reading & learning ‘off by heart’ is of lesser importance than written work. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading & checking items to be learned, ensuring that this work is done well.**

**Occasionally, pupils may be given a ‘Homework Pass’ or a subject off homework for birthdays or as a reward for an achievement by a class or an individual. This is at the discretion of the teacher.**

**We ask parents to support our Homework policy by:**

* **Providing space and time for their child to do his/her homework. Turn off the TV, radio, mobile phone & other electronic devices until the homework is finished.**
* **Checking that the homework is completed neatly & to the best of the pupil’s ability and then signing the Homework Journal.**
* **Discussing interesting aspects of the work assigned.**
* **Using the method suggested by the teacher for the learning of spellings.**
* **Regularly checking memorisation of tables.**
* **Informing teachers of problems if & when they arise.**

**Signed on behalf of the Board of Management**

**Chairperson:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: 20/10/2015**

**Reviewed Date:**

**Reviewed Date:**

**Reviewed Date:**

**Reviewed Date:**

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