



**Cloontuskert N.S.
Cloontuskert,
Lanesboro,
Co. Roscommon.
N39 AT80.
Roll No. 18116S**

Cloontuskert N.S. Homework Policy

Drafted: April 2026

Introductory Statement and Rationale

The purpose of our homework policy is to provide clarity to the whole school community regarding the purpose of homework and the expectations at each class level.

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation, responsibility and lifelong 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.

How often is homework given?

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

- If homework has been neglected by the child during the week
- In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.

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.

Guidelines for Time to be Spent on 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 it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines:

- Junior/ Senior Infants: Up to 20 minutes
- 1st and 2nd class: Up to 30 minutes
- 3rd and 4th class: Up to 45 minutes
- 5th and 6th class: Up to 60 minutes

It is important to note that these are suggested target times. In practice, the time taken will depend on the individual child. Please consult with your child's class teacher if you have a query/concern in this regard.

(If a child has spent the recommended time working on homework, parents may “sign off” if they feel the work assigned is too difficult or taking too much time).

Homework Content

Usually, homework contains a balance between 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.

Homework can contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be ‘learned by heart’, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items 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.

Homework will be corrected in a timely manner. Various methods of correcting are used (e.g. teacher correction, whole class, paired corrections, class discussion) with appropriate feedback provided.

Responsibilities

Pupils should -

- Enter homework accurately in homework diaries
- Ensure they take home relevant books and copies
- Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability
- Present written homework neatly

Parents/Guardians should:

- 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, being aware of age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and screens.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Sign the homework diary and/or Reading Log (daily) checking that all homework is complete.

- Acknowledge that your child will make mistakes and encourage them to check back over their work to find and correct their own mistakes. Making mistakes is part of the learning process.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary and any other items needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal/email.

Remember

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

Ratification & Communication

This policy will be presented at the next B.O.M. meeting for ratification and will be subsequently communicated to the relevant parties.

Signed; _____
(Chairperson of B.O.M)

Signed; _____
(Principal)

Date; _____

