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|  | **New Ross Educate Together National School****Barrett’s Park, New Ross, Co. Wexford** **Tel: 051445398**office@newrossetns.iewww.newrossetns.ie**Roll no 20458m** |

**Homework Policy**

Contents

[School Details: 3](#_Toc535355276)

[Introductory Statement 3](#_Toc535355277)

[Aim of the Policy 3](#_Toc535355278)

[Relationship to School Ethos 3](#_Toc535355279)

[How often is homework given? 4](#_Toc535355280)

[Homework Content 4](#_Toc535355281)

[Duration of Homework 4](#_Toc535355282)

[Pupils should: 5](#_Toc535355283)

[Parents/Guardians should: 5](#_Toc535355284)

[How often do teachers monitor homework? 6](#_Toc535355285)

[What happens when Homework is not done? 6](#_Toc535355286)

[Implementation and Review 6](#_Toc535355287)

## School Details:

Name: New Ross Educate Together National School

Address: Barrett's Park, New Ross, Co. Wexford.

Telephone: 051445398

Email: office@newrossetns.ie

Roll Number: 20458m

Principal: Therese White

The school day starts at 8.30 and finishes at 1.10 for infant classes and 2.10 for all other classes.

Introductory Statement

Homework is an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. We as an Educate Together School value the importance of a link with the home and parents/guardians. Parents/guardians can be involved in, assist and monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework diaries, homework and liaison with teachers. Through this policy we hope to strengthen positive home-school links through streamlining the processes involved. The homework policy of New Ross Educate Together National School has been formulated by staff, with parental input, and endorsed by the board of management.

Aim of the Policy

New Ross ETNS recognises the role of homework in fostering independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, co-operation and 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.

It can be a valuable opportunity for parents to provide 1 to 1 support to their child in areas where they need it. 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.

Relationship to School Ethos

It is the policy of the school to identify all the needs of the pupil and put in place measures to adequately cater for their needs. The school also encourages the active involvement of parents/guardians working with their children and also in enabling their child to take responsibility and work independently. We understand that in the one-on-one communication at home, talking, listening, reasoning and questioning can be enriching for the child. The homework policy of the school facilitates these ideals.

How often is homework given?

Each teacher has their own homework system and this will be discussed at the class meeting with the parents/guardians at the start of the year.

Homework is given Monday to Thursday inclusive.

Homework will generally not be assigned on Fridays with certain exceptions: If homework has been neglected during the week or in senior classes if some project work is undertaken at weekends.

Homework will not be given to children who miss school or for short-term illnesses or holidays.
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.

Homework is not linked to behaviour but occasionally children may be rewarded with reduced homework if they have worked/behaved well.

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 will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be ‘learned by heart’, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.

Assigned homework is explained to children in advance. The different levels of pupils are also taken into account. Separate homework may be given to a child that attends a support teacher.

Duration of Homework

As the child progresses through the school the time spent on homework will increase. 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 not the quantity of homework that matters. The focus is on the effort put in by the child. It is also important to note that if homework is causing your child stress or concentrated work is taking longer than the recommended length of time you are asked to please inform your child’s teacher.

The following are general guidelines for time to be spent on homework.

* \*JI and SI 10-15 minutes
* First and Second class Up to 30 minutes
* Third and Fourth class 30-45 minutes
* Fifth and Sixth class Up to 1 hour

\*Note that formal homework for junior infants begins after the October mid-term break.

Pupils should:

* All children from first class upwards have a homework diary, students have a responsibility to enter homework accurately in homework diary.
* Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
* Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
* Present written work 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 at hand.
* The pupil should have the Homework Journal open to tick off work as it is completed.
* Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account; age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
* Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and television
* Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
* Parents/guardians are advised to supervise and check homework nightly.
* Check that the child has all necessary books, homework journal, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, P.E. clothes, if needed for the next school day.
* Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework journal or by scheduling a meeting.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

As mentioned previously each teacher has their own homework system and this will be discussed at the class meeting with the parents/guardians at the start of the year.

Teachers may check homework or parts of homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child’s homework journal 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 a week. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self-esteem.

What happens when Homework is not done?

Homework is valued as an important part of a child’s education. Parents will be informed if homework is not completed on a regular basis. Non-completion of homework is deemed unacceptable behaviour (see Code of Behaviour policy document). However, there are always some exceptions to this e.g. family events, tiredness and sickness.

When homework is not completed regularly without reasonable explanation the teacher will contact parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

Implementation and Review

The policy will be reviewed and evaluated regularly in consultation with parents/guardians, students, school staff and others. The policy will be revised as necessary within the framework of school planning.

The policy is due for review in in January 2021.

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of New Ross Educate Together National School on the 24 January 2019. Implementation of the policy will be monitored by the Principal of the school.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_24/1/2019\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson BOM

Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_24/1/2019\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Management