



Homework Policy



Tang N.S.

Roll Number 08037Q

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Introduction and Rationale

Homework is part of a continuous learning process and in Tang National School we regard homework as important for the following reasons:

- It allows pupils the opportunity to revisit, revise & consolidate skills learned in class.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- 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 secondary 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 challenge.

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

Tang National School seeks to enable each child to develop his/her potential. Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments.

Aims

By introducing this Policy, Tang National School hopes:

- To benefit pupil learning
- To enhance and reinforce the work of the school day
- To foster independent learning/discipline
- To develop a sense of responsibility
- To develop study skills (planning and organisational skills)
- To promote a similar approach to homework across all classes
- To strengthen links between home and school
- To encourage parents and guardians to take an interest and share responsibility for their child's work and progress
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic

Guidelines

Why is homework given?

Homework 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. Where problems occur, a note from parents would be of mutual benefit to child and teacher.

How often is homework given?

Homework is assigned from Junior Infants to Sixth classes.
Homework is given every evening.

Weekend homework:

- At the discretion of the class teacher
- If homework has been neglected during the week
- If a child has been ill/absent (to catch up on work)
- In Senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends, also essays, research etc.
- Reading and tables are expected to be revised

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.

If a child presents homework which is perceived to be well below the standard they are capable of, s/he may be asked to re-do it.

What is the content of homework?

Ideally, homework will contain 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 readily 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 homework is done well.

Children with Special Needs:

- Children who may be experiencing difficulties in any curriculum area will be given homework to suit their needs eg. short, specific tasks, shorter written assignments, exercises on a particular area of difficulty to reinforce concept etc.
- If a child is attending the Special Education Teacher (SET), the class teacher in consultation with the SET, will decide on the child's homework content and who administers it.

Homework Guidelines:

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:

Class:	Time Guidelines:
Junior Infants	0 – 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
First Class	Up to 30 minutes
Second Class	Up to 40 minutes
Third Class	Up to 50 minutes
Fourth Class	Up to 1 hour
Fifth Class	Up to 1 hour 15 minutes
Sixth Class	Up to 1 hour 30 minutes

Parental Involvement

How much help should parents give?

- Parents should try and 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 is having 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 actually doing the homework for the child. In this case, the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Shared reading is not the homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child. If it's not enjoyable, share reading should not be done.

Monitoring of homework

How often should parents monitor homework?

- Each child will have a homework journal where nightly homework will be recorded. 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.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Teachers check homework on a daily basis, however with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check homework every day. All prescribed homework will be marked by the teacher.
- 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 of children.

Communication between parents and teachers:

When should parents communicate to teachers about homework?

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- When your child cannot do homework because s/he cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.
- If, for any reason, homework is causing stress to the child.

Please note, for long absences (ie. holidays) it is the responsibility of the parents to cover work missed. In these cases, school journals could be sent to the appropriate teacher where an outline of proposed homework will be supplied.

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 do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

Success Criteria

The success of this Policy will be based on:

- Feedback from teachers, pupils, parents
- Satisfactory homework exercises and assignments submitted by pupils

Roles and Responsibilities

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| • Principal, teachers, parents, pupils | Implementation of Policy |
| • Principal, teachers | Review/amend |

Timetable for Review

As necessary

Ratification and Communication

This Policy was communicated to and ratified by the Board of Management of Tang National School at its meeting held on _____.

Signed: _____
Principal

Date: _____

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Date: _____