

Homework Policy, Gorey Educate Together N.S, May 2015

Homework is used at Gorey Educate Together NS to reinforce the material and skills that the children meet in our classrooms.

Homework provides additional feedback to the teachers and to families on the children's learning.

Positive and structured approaches to homework are encouraged so that life-long benefits can be nurtured in areas such as 'love-of-learning,' personal responsibility and organisational skills.

Classteachers explain homework expectations and routines to families during September: '**Information Meeting for Parents/Guardians**' (Junior Infants) or '**Letter from the Teacher**' (Senior Infants – 6th class.)

Teachers assign homework **4 days per week, Monday – Thursday**.

Completion of homework tasks takes no longer than: **20 minutes** (Junior & Senior Infants,) **20-30 minutes** (1st and 2nd classes,) **30-40 minutes** (3rd and 4th classes,) and **60 minutes** (5th and 6th classes.)

Occasional '**Homework Passes**' and other breaks from routine ('**No Homework Today**') are also a feature of school life, (praising & rewarding children, special events, etc.)

Difficulties completing homework: parents and guardians communicate with classteachers regarding such difficulties (including pupils exceeding the recommended time allocation,) and they agree solutions. [*ClassDojo communication is also in use in some senior classrooms on a trial basis. See www.classdojo.com*]

Homework Journals are used in 1st – 6th classes. Parents sign the journal each day to confirm that homework is completed (or they write the reason why homework couldn't be done.)

Homework not done: Unless a parent/guardian has explained the event, classteachers generally set pupils the task of completing the necessary work during the school day – during the child's usual play time, during Golden Time, during library time, etc. This is especially the case with older children, (3rd class and above.) Teachers take individual circumstances and differences into account when making such arrangements.

Project Work: When setting such tasks, teachers allow plenty of time for research work as well as for art work, etc. Every child's best effort is given recognition. Competition between children regarding class projects is not encouraged.

Teachers don't arrange **extra homework** for individual pupils, (nor do they correct such work.) In seeking additional educational activities for children, families are encouraged to visit **Gorey Library** (or to make use of reputable educational websites such as www.helpmykidlearn.ie, etc.)

Family holidays during the school year: This practice is discouraged. However, if unavoidable, families communicate in advance with the classteachers or principal. (However, teachers are not expected to arrange 'homework packs,' etc. for children to take on holidays.)

Weight of school bags: Parents communicate their concerns to teachers. (Pupils are encouraged to take home only the books that are required on a particular evening – all other books can be stored in the classrooms.)

Homework Club: An optional afterschool homework club is sometimes offered by teachers. (Details are circulated each September.) A charge is payable.