

## Homework Policy, Gorey Educate Together N.S, September 2024

---

Revision of this policy included discussion with the children (School Council,) dialogue amongst staff (Staff Meeting,) discussion amongst Board members (Board of Management Meeting) and consultation with families (PTA Meeting and Parent Questionnaire.)

- (a) Homework is used at Gorey Educate Together NS to reinforce the material and skills that the children meet in our classrooms.
- (b) Homework provides additional feedback to the teachers and to families on the children's learning.
- (c) 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.

-----

1. Classteachers explain homework expectations and routines to families during September: '**Information Meeting for Parents/Guardians**' (Junior Infants) or '**Letter (or Class Dojo notices) from the Teacher**' (Senior Infants – 6<sup>th</sup> class.)
2. Teachers assign homework as follows:

Junior & Senior Infants	3 days per week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday	Reading homework only. No written homework.	10 minutes per day
First & Second Class	3 days per week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday	Reading homework and written homework.	15 minutes per day
Third & Fourth Class	3 days per week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday	Reading homework and written homework.	20 minutes per day
Fifth & Sixth Class	3 days per week, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday	Reading homework and written homework.	30 minutes per day

*Homework is not assigned on Wednesdays or weekends: take a break from schoolwork!*

3. **Children with significant additional needs:** alternative homework arrangements may apply.
4. Occasional '**Homework Passes**' and other breaks from routine ('**No Homework Today**') are also a feature of school life, (praising & rewarding children, special events, etc.) Homework is reduced in the final week of each school term, and for the month of June.
5. **Difficulties completing homework:** parents and guardians communicate with classteachers regarding such difficulties (including pupils exceeding the recommended time allocation,) and they agree solutions.

6. **Homework Journals** are used in 1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> classes. Parents sign the journal each day to confirm that homework is completed (or they write the reason why homework could not be done.)
7. **Homework done:** The children will be praised (and sometimes rewarded) for doing their best.
8. **Homework not done:** The onus is on parents to follow-up with their child. Sanctions are not arranged by the school.
9. End-of-Year **School Reports** include an assessment by the teacher: "Homework is completed to the best of their ability."
10. **Occasional Project Work:** When setting such tasks, teachers allow plenty of time for research work as well as for artwork, etc. Every child's best effort is given recognition. Competition between children regarding class projects is not encouraged.
11. Teachers do not 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](http://www.helpmykidlearn.ie), etc.)
12. **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.)
13. **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.)
14. **Homework Club:** Teachers sometimes offer an optional afterschool homework club. (Details are circulated each September.) A charge is payable.
15. This Homework Policy will come into effect in **October 2024**. The operation of the policy will be reviewed at the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year.