



Riverview
Educate Together National School

Riverview ETNS Homework policy, March 2021

Rationale:

This policy was drawn up by the staff of Riverview ETNS, in consultation with the parents, so that families have a clear understanding of the purpose of homework, the way in which it is assigned, and how it should be completed. It is also intended to communicate the school approach to homework to new staff.

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, self-esteem, cooperation and responsibility for life-long learning. It is an essential part of primary education as it reinforces learning which happens 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. However 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.

At Riverview, we view homework as

- a way of communicating with families about the work children are doing in class.
- a way of building up good habits of independent work.

- an opportunity for children to work with a supportive adult at home.
- an inspiration to expand creative exploration and learning in the home.

Teachers will each have their own homework system which will be explained to parents at the beginning of the school year. The general information below applies to all classes.

Homework will usually contain a balance of tasks, including reading tasks, learning tasks, and written tasks, drawing/colouring, collecting information, active homework and ethical education homework.

Teachers assign homework for the week, and it is to be completed each evening, from Monday to Thursday.

All pupils are encouraged to read in their own time every day and daily reading with a parent is encouraged. We encourage pupils and parents to value reading materials other than the class reader at home. A range of reading materials is much more beneficial than an over-reliance on one genre or type of reading.

Teachers will also assign a monthly project menu, from which children can choose projects. These may cover whole-school themes from the Learn Together programme, as well as topics being covered in class. Projects offer children the opportunity to delve more deeply into a subject which is of interest to them, to learn how to research and present material, and to give an oral presentation of their work.

A weekly printout of assigned homework will be provided to the children every Monday. This will also be emailed to parents, along with the monthly project menu. Weekly homework should be returned to the class teacher each Friday morning. Projects can be returned to the teacher at any point during the week.

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

Recommended time for homework

The following are general guidelines for time to be spent on homework. As the child progresses through the school the time spent on homework will increase. 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 it is taking longer than the recommended length of time please inform your child's teacher.

*Junior and Senior Infants	10-15 minutes
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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 homework for Junior Infants begins after the October mid-term break.

Tips for parents for children's homework

- Establish a timed homework routine.
- Set aside a regular place and suitable chair and table.
- Encourage your child to keep books and copies clean and tidy.
- Involve your child in packing up books and equipment in their school bag after homework is complete.
- Encourage independent work but try and be available to help if needed and also show interest in what is being done.
- Praise your child's efforts and ask him/her their opinions / views.
- If you are working with your child and you feel yourself becoming impatient, stop.
- If your child becomes frustrated with a particular task encourage them to set it aside for a time and to come back to it later. If the frustration continues, stop that task.
- Prevent interruptions and distractions like TV, toys, radio.
- Have resources such as pencils and colours readily available.

What happens if homework is not completed?

Homework is valued as an important part of a child's education. Parents will be contacted if homework is not completed on a regular basis. Completion of homework is expected, as outlined in our Code of Behaviour. However there are always some exceptions to this e.g. family events, tiredness and sickness.

This policy was drafted in February 2021 in consultation with staff and was ratified by the Board of Management on March 24th. This policy is a working document and will be reviewed as required.

Chairperson: _____

Principal: _____