



Ballygiblin N.S. Homework Policy

Why Give Homework?

At Ballygiblin National School, we believe homework serves several important purposes:

- To reinforce learning that happens during the school day.
- To help develop concentration, independence, and a positive work ethic.
- To provide a valuable link between home and school.
- To promote responsibility and pride in work.

Homework is designed to be achievable and purposeful. In senior classes, some tasks may also encourage creativity and independent thinking. Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability—no more, no less.

How Often is Homework Given?

- Homework is given **Monday to Thursday**.
 - Normally, there is **no homework on Fridays**, at weekends or on the day before a public holiday.
 - Occasionally, senior pupils may have longer-term projects to be worked on over a weekend.
 - Sometimes, teachers or the principal may award “Homework Off” as a treat or to mark special occasions.
 - Where homework is repeatedly incomplete or not attempted, children may be asked to complete it during school time to support the development of good habits.
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What is the Content of Homework?

Homework may include a mix of:

- **Reading tasks** (e.g., independent or shared reading)
- **Learning tasks** (e.g., tables, spellings, fóclóir)

- **Written work**
- Drawing or collecting information/items
- Finishing work started in class

We place a high value on **learning key items by heart**—tables, spellings and vocabulary—as this is proven to have the most impact on children’s long-term learning.

Children sometimes feel that reading and learning tasks are “not real homework.” Parents are encouraged to give these tasks equal importance and to praise children’s efforts.

How Much Time Should Homework Take?

Below are **guideline times** for homework. Actual time may vary depending on the child, the task and the time of year.

- **Junior Infants:** ~10 minutes
- **Senior Infants:** 10–20 minutes
- **1st & 2nd Class:** 20–30 minutes
- **3rd & 4th Class:** 30–45 minutes
- **5th & 6th Class:** 45–60 minutes

It is the **quality, not the quantity** that matters. Homework should not cause undue stress or interfere with family time, rest, or extra-curricular activities. If your child has worked diligently for the recommended time but has not completed all tasks, please write a note in the journal.

Differentiation and Flexibility

Homework will usually be the same for most pupils. The amount attempted and the level of support needed may differ. Teachers may sometimes use a “**Must–Should–Could**” approach:

- **Must** – the essential core task to be completed by all.
- **Should** – an extension task where appropriate.
- **Could** – an optional challenge for pupils who wish to explore further.

If you feel homework is consistently too difficult or too easy for your child, please contact the teacher so that reasonable adjustments can be discussed.

How Much Help Should Parents Give?

The level of help you give will naturally depend on your child’s **age and stage**:

- **Younger children** (especially infants and early primary) often need close support, including help with reading instructions, practising new skills, and staying focused.

- **Older children** should be encouraged to work more independently, with parents stepping in mainly to check and guide.
- **Children who are finding schoolwork challenging** may also need extra help, reassurance and encouragement.

In general:

- Provide a quiet space and a regular time each evening.
 - Minimise distractions (e.g., TV, devices).
 - Sit with younger pupils to help them get started and understand what to do.
 - Encourage children to try tasks themselves where possible, but step in with guidance when needed.
 - If your child is having significant difficulty or becomes upset, reassure them and write a note in the journal so the teacher can follow up.
 - Shared reading is intended to be an enjoyable, positive experience—not a cause of stress.
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When Should Homework Be Done?

Ideally, homework should be done:

- Shortly after school, while your child is still fresh.
- Before any screen time, where possible.

Some children benefit from a short break before starting. Homework **should not** be left until the next morning before school.

Parental Monitoring

- Please check and sign your child's homework journal each evening.
 - Ensure homework is recorded accurately and neatly.
 - Use the journal to communicate any notes or queries to the teacher.
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Presentation

Children are encouraged to take pride in their work by:

- Writing neatly.
 - Completing tasks carefully.
 - Bringing all necessary books and materials to school.
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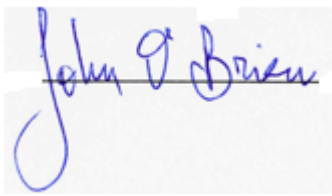

Digital Homework

On occasion, homework may involve using digital resources. Guidance will be provided to ensure all pupils can access any materials assigned.

Review

This policy will be **reviewed annually** to ensure it continues to support children's learning and wellbeing.

Signatures

	
<i>John O'Brien</i>	<i>David Hyland</i>
<i>Chairperson BOM</i>	<i>Principal</i>
<i>Date: 18/11/2025</i>	<i>Date: 18/11/2025</i>