

Homework Policy

Introduction

At Waterford Educate Together NS, homework is seen as a way to support learning, independence, and responsibility, while also strengthening the link between home and school. Homework should be purposeful, balanced, and achievable, and never a source of unnecessary stress for children or families.

Homework helps children:

- Reinforce and practice skills learned in class.
- Develop independence, self-organisation, and responsibility.
- Share their learning with parents/guardians, encouraging involvement in their education.
- Engage in creative, problem-solving, and reflective tasks that extend classroom learning.

A parent survey conducted in 2021 showed a strong preference for homework to continue and that it balances written and non-written activities. This continues to guide our approach.

How often is homework given?

- Homework is normally given Monday–Thursday.
- Fridays are free from formal homework, although children are always encouraged to read for pleasure or pursue personal projects/interests.

Homework Content

Homework will usually include a mix of:

- Reading (for enjoyment or fluency practice).
- Spelling / tables / oral learning tasks.
- Short written tasks (e.g., maths, English, Gaeilge).
- Creative or active tasks (drawing, research, projects).
- Finishing classwork where appropriate.



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The balance of these will vary depending on age, stage, and the needs of the class. Reading and oral learning are just as valuable as written work.

Time Guidelines

Homework should be manageable and balanced. Every child is different, so times are only a guide:

- Infants: 10–15 minutes
- 1st–3rd Class: 20–30 minutes
- 4th–6th Class: 30–45 minutes

The quality of work is more important than the quantity. If homework regularly takes much longer than this, parents/guardians are encouraged to communicate with the class teacher.

Roles and Responsibilities

Pupils should:

- Try their best to complete tasks independently.
- Record homework clearly (in diary or via Aladdin).
- Present work neatly and take pride in it.
- Bring home the necessary materials and return completed work.

Parents/Guardians should:

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework.
- Support independence (help when needed, but avoid over-helping).
- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space where possible.
- Help with reading and oral learning by listening, discussing, and encouraging.
- Sign the homework journal (1st–6th Class) or check Aladdin, where appropriate.
- Communicate any difficulties directly with the teacher.

Teachers will:

- Assign homework that is purposeful and balanced.



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- Differentiate where necessary to meet the needs of pupils.
 - Provide feedback regularly (sometimes teacher-led, sometimes peer/self-checked).
 - Use Aladdin to support clarity and communication with parents.
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When Homework is Difficult or Not Completed

Homework should never place undue stress on families. If homework is unfinished, missed, or consistently difficult, the teacher will communicate with parents to understand the reason and find a solution together.

If challenges persist, the principal may become involved to support the family and child in finding a workable approach. The emphasis will always be on collaboration and support, not sanction.

Summary

At WETNS, homework is intended to:

- Support learning without overburdening families.
- Encourage independence while recognising that children develop at different rates.
- Promote creativity and curiosity as much as practice and revision.
- Reflect our school values of being Kind, Safe, Honest, and Ready to Learn.

Homework is one way we work together — children, families, and staff — to help every child reach their potential in a happy, balanced, and supportive environment.



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