

**Scoil Naomh Bríde,  
Baile on Bhóthair,  
Áth Troim,  
Co. na Mí.  
C15 TP62**

Telephone/Fax: 046 9546358  
Email: [boardsmillns@gmail.com](mailto:boardsmillns@gmail.com)



**St. Brigid's N.S.,  
Boardsmill,  
Trim,  
Co. Meath.  
C15 TP62**

Roll Number: 17947K  
Website: [www.boardsmillns.com](http://www.boardsmillns.com)

## Homework Policy

### 1. Introduction

The school promotes homework as an important part of the pupils overall learning experience.

### 2. Aims of Homework

- To re-enforce and consolidate work already done.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To develop the ability to work independently.
- To cover adequately the full curriculum on offer in the school.
- To afford parents the opportunity to be meaningfully involved in their child's education.
- To improve reading skills.
- To develop the skill of learning by heart.
- To encourage research, especially amongst senior classes.

### 3. Content of Homework

Homework is tailored to suit the age level and ability level of pupils. It is meant to be achievable by a child i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done to challenge the child's ability and to provide opportunities for creativity and independent working. Work set for homework will generally have been prepared in class or has been set to challenge the child.

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work. Homework may regularly contain reading, written work, spellings, tables, pieces to be 'learned by heart', drawing/colouring, project work, collecting information/items, making things and finishing work started in class. Homework may be given in any curricular area.

### 4. Time spent on homework

No strict time limit can be laid down for completion of homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. The school recognises that each family situation is different. Parents will be advised that ideally homework should be done before any television is watched, soon after school, while the child is still fresh. However, some children need a break before starting homework. The most important aspect is to set a regular routine. It is not advisable to leave homework until morning time before school. The following are general guidelines of the amount of time children in each class should take to complete their homework:

Junior and Senior Infants – up to 20 minutes.  
Rang 1 / Rang 2 – up to 30 minutes  
Rang 3 / Rang 4 – up to 45 minutes  
Rang 5 / Rang 6 – 45 mins to an hour

The recommended times are guidelines only because too much emphasis on 'time spent' may cause a habit of 'clock-watching' to develop. Parents will be advised that if the child is regularly spending inappropriately long periods of time on homework the class teacher should be contacted.

## 5. Parental Guidelines

- Parents will be advised to help their children with homework by:
  - i. providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework.
  - ii. preventing interruptions or distractions e.g. television, mobile phones, iPads etc.
  - iii. providing time for oral as well as written work.
- Children should complete written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty. Parents will be advised that where a child is working independently, they should be available to help and show an interest in what is being done.
- If a child has difficulty with homework the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case parents will be advised to write a note to the teacher informing the teacher of the problem.
- Parents will be advised to check a child's homework for neatness and to point out obvious mistakes.
- Parents will be asked to check and sign the child's homework journal every evening. The homework journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers. Written messages to a child's teacher may be put in the homework journal.
- Note: Shared Reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

## 6. Monitoring of Homework in School

Homework will always be corrected soon after it is done. However:

- it is not always possible or desirable to check each child's homework every day.
- as children get older and learn to work independently some items of homework are checked less often.
- some items of homework may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. Self- assessment is a useful part of the learning process.
- Teachers will, in so far as possible, check homework journals on a regular basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.

## 7. Contact with the School

Parents will be advised to communicate with the teacher about homework when:

- i. the child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- ii. the child cannot do homework because s/he cannot understand some aspects.
- iii. the child is regularly spending in excess of the recommended times on homework and this is not due to poor work habits.
- iv. When homework is a stressful experience between parent and child on an ongoing basis.

## 8. General Information

- a) As a general rule homework is assigned on each school day except on a Friday. Homework may be assigned on a Friday in the following circumstances:
  - if homework has been neglected during the week or has been deemed unsatisfactory by the class teacher.
  - in senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends.
  - library reading is actively encouraged during the weekends.
  - in certain circumstances e.g. after prolonged illness individual pupils may be assigned homework at the weekends to assist in making up for lost time.

- b) Homework must be completed unless there is a satisfactory explanation, either written or oral, from a parent or guardian.
- c) Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.
- d) Sometimes, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given ‘homework-off’ as a treat or as an acknowledgement of some special occasion or achievement.
- e) In the event of the homework not being attempted, having been deemed unsatisfactory, or not being complete teachers may insist that the homework is completed during break time or at the weekend.
- f) Refusal to do homework or repeated failure to do homework will be regarded as misbehaviour and dealt with accordingly.

**Conclusion**

Please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher if you have any concerns regarding your child’s homework.