



**SCOIL MHUIRE CARLANSTOWN**  
CARLANSTOWN, KELLS, CO. MEATH  
ROLL NO. 18132 Q

***HOMWORK POLICY***

***Introductory Statement:***

*This policy was drafted by the teaching staff of Carlanstown NS and ratified by the Board of Management in 2004 and reviewed in June 2009. Resulting from discussions at staff meetings, changes in teaching methodologies and feedback from parents at progress meetings this policy was reviewed again in May & June 2017.*

***Aims:***

*We regard homework as an essential component in children's educational development. It is a pre-requisite for good study habits in the future. Children are encouraged to use homework as a time to re-enforce what is being learned at school. It encourages one-to-one communication at home; talking, listening, reasoning and questioning can be enriching for the child.*

- *To reinforce what the child learns during the day.*
- *To provide a link between teacher and parent.*
- *To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.*
- *To encourage study skills and self-discipline.*
- *To motivate (e.g. through research) pupils to expand their knowledge.*
- *Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge the children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.*

***HOW OFTEN IS HOMEWORK GIVEN?***

- *Homework is given on Monday – Thursday but not on Fridays.*
- *There are two exceptions; if homework has been neglected during the week or in senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends.*
- *Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given a 'Homework Pass' as a reward or as acknowledgment of some particular achievement. Special occasions e.g. birthdays, school celebrations, winning a competition may be occasions to exempt children from homework*
- *Please note, extra homework may be sometimes given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.*
- *The nature of the homework assigned will inevitably change during such times as Book Week, Christmas, Communion or Confirmation time and Parent-Teacher meetings.*



## SCOIL MHUIRE CARLANSTOWN

CARLANSTOWN, KELLS, CO. MEATH

ROLL NO. 18132 Q

### HOW MUCH TIME FOR HOMEWORK?

The following are guidelines for the amount of time spent at 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.

|   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| Junior & Senior Infants                       | Up to 20 minutes          |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Class & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Class | 30 - 40 minutes           |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Class & 4 <sup>th</sup> Class | 45 minutes - 1 hr         |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> Class & 6 <sup>th</sup> Class | 1 - 1 ½hr (uninterrupted) |

### WHEN SHOULD HOMEWORK BE DONE?

- Each family situation is different - parents working, child minders etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting.
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school

### WHAT IS THE CONTENT OF HOMEWORK?

- It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of work that matters. Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks. This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spelling, tables, written work, and pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- Teachers are also aware of the need for differentiation. Some children can only cope with a portion of the whole class homework. Where pupils are receiving additional support from a member of the SEN Team the class teacher and SEN Teacher will collaborate in relation to the nature and type of homework the child is to receive.
- A child may be given Constructive Extra Homework – this is in line with the school's Code of Behaviour. Please see Behaviour Policy for details.
- Schoolwork will not be set for pupils going on holidays, but recommendations can be made by the class teacher
- Pupils in Junior & Senior Infants will get a homework sheet at the start of each week outlining the homework for each night.
- Pupils from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> classes should have a homework diary.
- If homework has been done in an unacceptable way, the teacher may either a) send a note to the parent requesting it be re-done or b) give the child a set time to re-do it in class. If homework is constantly neglected, parents will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss and try to resolve the (situation) issue.



## SCOIL MHUIRE CARLANSTOWN

CARLANSTOWN, KELLS, CO. MEATH

ROLL NO. 18132 Q

- All children are taught the school's approach on 'how to learn spellings at home using the 'Look, Say, Cover Write Check' method
- Shared Reading or Literacy Hour Reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.

### **HOW MUCH HELP SHOULD PARENTS GIVE?**

- Parents should try to help their children with homework by:
  - providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
  - to prevent interruptions or distractions, like T.V. or other children.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanations or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it simply meant to be an enjoyable experience between parent and child.

### **Parents Role:**

- To monitor child's work
- To assist/help out on occasion if required.
- To hear learning work/reading/tables/spellings
- To check finished work.
- To assist child with research e.g. library visit, collecting specimens, sourcing materials for visual arts programme.
- Please check that your child records his/her homework neatly in the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed. Parents are asked to record the time taken to complete homework in the journal.

### **Teachers Role:**

- To correct and monitor regularly. Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day. Some items of homework may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a very useful part of the learning process for children.
- To provide feedback to pupils about their homework.
- To liaise with parents on child's progress/difficulties with homework.



## SCOIL MHUIRE CARLANSTOWN

CARLANSTOWN, KELLS, CO. MEATH

ROLL NO. 18132 Q

### ***Pupils Role:***

- *To ensure they take down their homework correctly & bring home the appropriate books/copies/pens.*
- *To ask for the teacher's explanation of the homework if it seems unclear*
- *To find a quiet time and space in which to do their homework.*
- *To ask for their parents' input, if required, and signature on their journal*
- *To tick off work in the journal as it is completed.*
- *In older classes, to do their own research e.g. libraries, internet, interviews.*
- *To practice their music/tables/poetry for an appropriate amount of time, before asking their parents to check.*
- *To ensure their parents observe or listen to or question their Shared Reading or class reading.*
- *To present their copies or projects in a neat, accurate and acceptable way.*
- *To put all their books back into their bag correctly for the next day*

*If the pupil finds that he/she is having a problem with their homework, they should*

- a) First of all, ask for their parents' support*
- b) If parents find they genuinely do have a problem, they should write a note to the teacher in the homework journal, explaining the nature of the problem.*
- c) The teacher will then be able to help the pupil.*

### **HOW OFTEN SHOULD PARENTS MONITOR HOMEWORK ?**

- *Parents should check and sign the child's homework journal every evening.*
- *The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework. It is also a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.*
- *Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be in the homework journal (additional pages are available at the end of the journal).*

### ***Roles and Responsibilities:***

*We ask all parents to support the school staff in the implementation of this policy.*

### ***Ratification and Communication:***

*This policy was reviewed and updated in collaboration with all staff during May & June 2017 and subsequently circulated to all parents and BOM members for consideration. This policy was ratified by the Board of Management and will be communicated to parents in Term 1 each year or as the need arises during the school year.*



**SCOIL MHUIRE CARLANSTOWN**  
CARLANSTOWN, KELLS, CO. MEATH  
ROLL NO. 18132 Q

***Implementation and Review:***

*This policy supersedes previous policies and is effective from December 2017. The Policy is currently being implemented and will be reviewed on an annual basis at the end of the school year, or as the need arises during the term.*

***Ratification***

*The BOM officially ratified this policy at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017*

***Signed :*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_  
***Chairperson, Board of Management***

***Signed :*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Date:*** \_\_\_\_\_  
***Principal***