



BALLYORAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Reviewed January 2026

AIM

Our school vision states that we aim to ‘enable each child to develop to his or her full potential – academically, personally, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, in preparation for becoming responsible citizens.’ This policy aims to define how Homework can help to fulfil this vision and to provide a workable guideline for teachers and parents through which the value of homework will be appreciated.

INTRODUCTION

Homework is important in the education and development of children and in Ballyoran Primary School.

Homework set over the period of each week will contain both written and non-written elements.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

- 1) To revise, reinforce and consolidate class work.
- 2) To keep parents informed of the type and range of work pupils are doing in school.
- 3) To encourage parents to share responsibility for their children’s education.
- 4) To encourage children to work independently and take responsibility for their own learning.
- 5) To develop self confidence and self discipline in pupils.

Homework will consolidate and expand what has already been taught and learnt in the classroom rather than involve new concepts which have not been fully introduced or understood by the child. It will, however, at times be investigative in nature which may involve pupils carrying out their own research.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Homework is an important part of our Partnership with Parents and we would encourage parents to take an interest in their child’s homework. It gives parents an insight into their child’s progress and can further enhance their learning. It should be a positive time for child and parent together. The role of parents is as follows:

- 1) To show an interest in their child’s work.
- 2) To encourage and advise.
- 3) To ensure that homework, both oral and written, is completed.
- 4) To sign homeworks.

Parents are encouraged to involve themselves in their child's homework, though not to the extent where they actually do the homework for the child. Should parents find that their child is unable to complete a homework, for whatever reason, a note should be sent to the class teacher the next day explaining the reason why this was so.

WHEN AND WHERE SHOULD HOMEWORK BE DONE?

The following should be considered:

- 1) A definite routine for homework should be established.
- 2) It should be done at a table.
- 3) It should be free from distractions, eg. TV and mobile devices switched off.
- 4) It should not be completed late at night or early in the morning.

ROLE OF TEACHERS

- 1) Plan and prepare relevant, differentiated and interesting homeworks for pupils.
- 2) Ensure pupils understand what they have to do for homework.
- 3) Regularly mark the homework and provide feedback on it.

ASSESSMENT OF HOMEWORK

See Marking Policy.

REWARDS

Various systems operate in school which will give pupils a night off written homework as a reward eg Attendance.

From time to time for a specific reason, the teacher may decide to reward the whole class with no written homework. This however will be the exception rather than the norm.

SETTING OF HOMEWORK

Homework will be set on a weekly basis in Foundation Stage and a nightly basis in Key Stages 1 and 2.

HOMEWORKS NOT COMPLETED

The school recognises that there will occasionally be exceptional circumstances whereby a pupil is unable to complete homework. In this case, it would be helpful the parent writes a note explaining this. If Homework is not completed without a good reason, the teacher may place the pupil in detention to complete the homework, if appropriate.

THEMED HOMEWORKS

Themed homeworks will be given from time to time to reflect what is going on in school life eg. Book Fair Week or European Day of Languages.

OCCASIONS WHEN THERE WILL BE NO HOMEWORK

As a general rule homework will not be given as follows:

1. First week of the new school year in September
2. Weekends
3. During half term weeks and the last week of each term.
4. During Parent/Teacher Meeting Weeks.
5. During Assessment Weeks.
6. On nights when the class are away on a trip.

HOMEWORK DIARIES

These will be used from Year 3 up for pupils to record their homework for the night. We recommend that it is checked and signed by a parent/guardian on a weekly basis.

SPELLINGS

a) Parents can help their child/ren to learn their spellings by encouraging them to use the following method:

<u>LOOK</u>	at the word carefully and in such a way that you will remember what you have seen
<u>SAY</u>	the word aloud by pronouncing it carefully
<u>COVER</u>	the word so that you cannot see it
<u>WRITE</u>	the word from memory, saying it softly to yourself as you are writing
<u>CHECK</u>	what you have written. If you have not written the word correctly, do not alter it, instead go back and repeat all these steps

Teachers will ensure that pupils understand the meanings of the words they are learning to spell. Incorrect Spellings will be corrected.

READING

Each week your child will have a reading book(s). Before it goes home, your child will have read it in class. He/she will not be given particular pages to read each night. Rather he/she will be given a set number of nights to read the book. He/she may wish to read part of the book each night or preferably read the whole book and re-read it the following night. Re-reading develops confidence and encourages your child to self-correct previous errors. Sometimes your child will have a familiar book to re-read. This is to encourage the development of a more fluent style of reading.

Please support and encourage your child when reading. When your child encounters a difficulty, rather than always telling him/her the word, encourage him/her to try out different strategies, e.g. If the problem word is 'kicking' you could ask:

<u>What do you see at the beginning?</u>	(k <u>i</u> cking)
<u>Middle?</u>	(kick <u>i</u> ng)
<u>And/or end?</u>	(kick <u>in</u> g)

Or you could ask:

Is there anything in the picture that might help? (e.g. there could be a football)

Or you could say:

Try that again and think what would fit. (re-read the sentence and think of a word that would fit and make sense).

As you encourage this checking for cues, your child will become more adept at doing this for him/herself.

Most importantly, enjoy reading together!

MATHS FACTS

It is important that pupils learn Maths Facts at the appropriate stage. Please spend a little time in the evenings, when appropriate, revising these basic Maths Facts.

ICT

Ballyoran Primary School encourages the use of ICT. Pupils may use a computer at home to complete homeworks, print these out and stick them into their homework books. It is however important to state that pupils who are unable to do this will not be disadvantaged in any way.

SUGGESTED TIMINGS

The Following are provided as guidance and are suggested timings only. It may take more or less time depending on the individual pupil.

Class	Homework	Average Duration Nightly
Year 1	Practical & Written Homework for week Class/Central Library Books Homework for Yr 1 will begin in October Reading when appropriate	10 - 15 min
Year 2	Reading: Mon – Thurs Maths Facts Spellings: Mon – Thurs (Terms 2 & 3) Written Homework: 1 per week: Literacy or Numeracy Class/Central Library Books Mathletics	15 - 20 min
Year 3	Reading: Mon – Thurs Spellings: Mon - Thurs Maths Facts: Mon – Thurs Written Homework: 1 per week: Literacy or Numeracy Class/Central Library Books Mathletics	25 - 30 min
Year 4	Reading (Guided Reading & AR): Mon – Thurs Spellings: Mon - Thurs Tables/Maths Facts: Mon - Thurs Written Homework: 1 per week: Literacy or Numeracy Mathletics	30 - 40 min
Year 5	Reading (Guided Reading & AR): Mon – Thurs Spellings: Mon – Thurs Tables/Maths Facts: Mon – Thurs New Wave Mental Maths – 4 per week Mathletics	30 - 40 min
Year 6	Reading (Guided Reading & AR): Mon – Thurs Spellings: Mon – Thurs Tables/Maths Facts: Mon – Thurs New Wave Mental Maths – 4 per week Mathletics	45 min
Year 7	Reading (Guided Reading & AR): Mon – Thurs Spellings: Mon – Thurs Tables/Maths Facts: Mon – Thurs New Wave Mental Maths – 4 per week Mathletics	45 – 60 min
Caterpillar Room	Reading: Mon – Thurs Practical/Written Homework: 1 per week: Literacy or Numeracy	10 – 15 min
Butterfly Room	Reading (Guided Reading & AR): Mon – Thurs Spellings: Mon – Thurs Tables/Maths Facts: Mon – Thurs Written Homework: 1 per week: Literacy or Numeracy Mathletics	15 - 20 min

POLICY REVIEW

This Policy will be reviewed and updated when necessary.