



Homework Policy

Kiltale National School (Kiltale NS) seeks to promote and support all aspects of the children's wellbeing as a core value of our ethos. We strive to ensure that all our pupils can flourish in an environment that is nurturing, supportive and progressive. We are guided by our mission statement, the aim of which is to ensure that each child, through confidence and self-belief may achieve their full potential and we believe that this can be achieved when wellbeing is present. Our understanding of wellbeing is in keeping with the World Health Organisation definition of wellbeing being present "when a person realises their potential, is resilient in dealing with the normal stresses of their life, takes care of their physical wellbeing and has a sense of purpose, connection and belonging to a wider community. It is a fluid way of being and needs nurturing throughout life." (WHO, 2001).

Rationale

Homework fosters independence, self-reliance, co-operation and responsibility. It is an essential part of primary education as it re-enforces what children learn in school. It provides a link between teacher and parent(s)/guardian(s) and encourages their active involvement in their child's education.

In general, homework is meant to be achievable by a child working on their own to the best of their ability. Younger children, however, will obviously need more support than older children. It is normally based on what has been taught in class.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) role

Parent(s)/guardian(s) are the child's primary educators. Children spend significantly more time at home than at school therefore support from home is vital for a child's development during primary school.

Children need to know that their parent(s)/guardian(s) think homework is important. If they know their parent(s)/guardian(s) care, children have a good reason to complete homework. There is a lot you can do to show that you value education, learning and homework. Homework can bring together pupils, parent(s)/guardian(s) and teachers in a common effort to improve learning. Helping your child with homework is an opportunity to improve your child's chances of doing well in school and life beyond school. By helping your child with homework, you can help them learn



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important lessons about discipline and personal responsibility. You are in a unique position to help your child make connections between school work and the 'real world' and thereby bringing meaning and fun to your child's homework experience.

Homework should be enjoyable and should promote learning as an enjoyable experience.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should

- Encourage a positive attitude towards homework in all subjects from an early age.
- Encourage children to work independently as far as possible. Resist over-helping.
- Encourage children to organise themselves for homework. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework diary open to tick off work as it is completed.
- Agree a suitable time for doing homework, taking into account age, the need for playtime, relaxation and family time.
- Monitor how long their child is spending on homework. Set clear but realistic starting and finishing times to keep children focused and to avoid homework 'dragging on' all evening.
- Providing a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions and TV.
- Encourage good presentation and neatness within a reasonable time.
- Ensure they read with/to their child/ren regularly, in a relaxed atmosphere where the emphasis is on enjoyment.
- Sign the homework diary checking that all homework is complete.
- Check that the child has all necessary books, homework diary, copies, pencils, mathematical equipment, dictionary, PE clothes, if needed for the next school day.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher using the homework diary.

How often is homework given?

Homework is usually given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. Usually there is no homework on weekends. The minimum would be reading for ten to twenty minutes and active homework. There may be times throughout the year when teachers / school may give a homework pass e.g., school final, sacramental celebrations, Diocesan Visit, Special Occasions, etc.



Principal to announce 'homework off' - via intercom to teachers - (before mid-day)
lunch to ensure infants know before they go home.

Homework off in the week prior to Christmas, Easter and summer holidays - the
children may receive 'homework off' in the lead up to school holidays at the teacher's
discretion.

Duration of Homework

The following are suggested guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children
will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent may vary
from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is
important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that
matters. The following are general guidelines:

Infants	Up to 15 minutes
1 st & 2 nd	20 to 30 minutes
3 rd & 4 th	30 to 45 minutes
5 th & 6 th	45 to 60 minutes

Pupils should not be working in excess of these advised times. Please contact your
class teacher if your child has any difficulties. If pupils go over the advised times
above, parent(s) / guardian(s) should sign and note the time spent on homework in
their child's diary. Please ensure that the time spent on completing homework
assignments are free from external distractions e.g., TV, video games, etc., and that
your child has a clear workspace environment to work within.

Pupils should

Enter homework accurately at school in their homework diary.
Ensure they take home relevant books and copies.
Complete homework assignments to the best of their ability.
Present written work neatly.

Teachers' Role

The teacher will set appropriate homework, review homework and provide feedback
to pupils. They will monitor and differentiate homework to cater for all pupils. They
should think critically about exactly what they assign and why it is being assigned.



Teachers will regularly evaluate the homework they set to ensure that it is of benefit to the children.

How often do teachers monitor homework?

Ideally, teachers check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers, it is not always possible to check each child's homework and /or diary every day. As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often, e.g. every second day or once a week. Teachers at their discretion can assign homework on Mondays to be submitted by each child before the end of the week. This is to accommodate each households' busy schedules and after school activities each night. Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by children themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children as it promotes responsibility and self esteem. Some items of homework, such as project work or work requiring research on behalf of the children, may be set over a longer period of time, especially in the older classes. This is good preparation for post-primary school where homework is often staggered.

What happens when Homework is not done?

Parent(s)/guardian(s) should send a note, in the homework diary, to the class teacher explaining why their child has been unable to complete their homework. When homework is not done regularly or without explanation the teacher will contact parent(s)/guardian(s) with a view to discussing and resolving the situation. As our Code of Behaviour Policy (COB) states "Not completing homework" is a Minor Misdemeanor the sanctions for all Minor Misdemeanors will apply. Our COB states this is a small scale misdemeanor but it will be monitored and dealt with according to a staged build up of sanctions. If a continuous breach of this rule persists, it will be dealt with as a Serious Misdemeanor. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s)/guardian(s) and arrange a meeting to discuss how the matter can be resolved.

- Please note** that if homework is incomplete and there is no explanation given by parents - no note in diary or email, pupils will be asked to complete their homework, in school during a break or during 'Golden Time'.



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Ratification and Review:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Kiltale NS in December 2025.
It will be reviewed on a regular basis or if changes are needed.

Implementation:

N.B. The Board of Management reserves the right to authorise the insertion of a new rule/clause if deemed necessary to preserve the safety, health, wellbeing and welfare of the general school body.

Signed: Maura Dineen
(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: 11/12/2025

Signed: Coinín J. Boy
(Principal)

Date: 11/12/2025