



Scoil Naomh Lorcán O'Tuathail

(St. Laurence O'Toole's National School)

Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. Tel/Fax: 01 281 8399 | Email: roundwoodns@gmail.com | Web: roundwoodns.ie

St Laurence O'Toole's Home Learning Policy 2023

We Aim High

Developed from the Homework Policy of 2020
In consultations with teaching staff, parents and student council.

Aims:

- To grow independence.
- To raise engagement in students' own learning.
- To foster an enjoyment of learning.
- To understand why a task is important.
- To develop organisational skills.
- To promote study skills in preparation for Secondary school.
- To nurture home- school links.

Values:

Home Learning is the opportunity for students along with their parents to strengthen our school **TOCHAR** values of **T**eamwork, **C**hampioning **O**thers, **C**inéaltais (Kindness), **H**onour, **E**ngAgement in learning and **R**esilience.

New Home Learning Approach:

Our Home Learning Policy will trial a 'No -Written Homework' Trial Period from September 2023 until December 2023 for Junior Infants to 4th class.

*To be reviewed by staff, students and parents in December 2023. **

Our Home Learning Policy emphasises 'Quality over Quantity' as well as a 'Little and often' approach.

It brings to the fore the importance of:

Daily reading (in both English and Gaeilge); A record of daily reading (in both English and Gaeilge).

Daily number fact learning (e.g. times tables, number bond facts, doubles etc.)

Sounds practise particularly for our junior classes or if required.

'Presenting pieces of learning' (songs, poems etc.) to be learnt by heart.

A student may be given a written task to further practise a concept in numeracy or literacy that requires consolidation.*

Organisation and development of independent study skills for senior classes.

Structure:

Home Learning assigned on a weekly basis by the class teacher.

*a student in (Junior infants - 4th class) may be given a written task to further practise a concept in numeracy or literacy that requires consolidation.

Reading is given on a weekly basis. Books are brought home on a Monday to be returned to school by Friday.

A no-written homework trial is in effect from September 2023 - December 2023 for junior infants to 4th class.*

4th to begin written home learning in the second term of the school year at teacher professional judgement.

5th and 6th class are assigned written homework to develop organisation, study skills and grow independence.

The following are guidelines for time spent focused on home learning daily:

- ★ Infants Junior/Senior: 15-20 minutes
- ★ First/Second class: 20-30 minutes
- ★ Third/Fourth class: 30-40 minutes
- ★ Fifth/Sixth class: 40-60 minutes

It is important to note:

If there is a change in home circumstances, which might temporarily disrupt home learning, you should inform your child's teacher. This will assist both the teacher and your child.

Additional Educational Needs (AEN):

Students attending AEN will be assigned their home learning in literacy and numeracy by their AEN support teacher. Home learning for these students will be assigned on an individual basis and will be drawn up in consultation with class teacher, AEN teacher, parents and child.

Roles and Responsibilities:

★ Pupil Responsibilities

- Engage daily with their reading activities.
- Daily practice of 'Learning by heart' tasks (times tables etc.)
- Ensuring they are organised in bringing home relevant material.
- Completing home learning assignments to their full potential.
- Checking they have all necessary equipment needed for each day they return to school.

★ Parents/ Guardians Responsibilities

- Promote a culture of learning and study in the home while encouraging a positive attitude towards home learning 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 home learning. Have all books and materials to hand. The pupil should have the Homework Journal /Learning Platform open to tick off work as it is completed

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- Agree a suitable time for doing home learning task, taking into account of age, the need for playtime, relaxation, after school sports activities and family time
- Provide a quiet place, suitable work surface, free from distractions, interruptions.
- Encourage completion of home learning assignments to their full potential.
- Sign the homework diary/sheet checking that all home learning is complete.
- Communicate difficulties to the teacher.

★ Teacher Responsibilities

- Set home learning, review assignments and provide feedback to students. Monitor home learning to help identify pupils who require consolidation or further assistance.
- Foster an environment where students feel they can openly discuss home learning difficulties with their teacher.
- When home learning is not completed on a regular basis the teacher will contact parents with a view to resolving the situation. If the situation continues, then the matter is brought to the attention of the Principal who will contact the parent(s) to discuss how the matter can be resolved**.

Please note : Not completing home learning or having it signed is included in the Code of Behaviour as unacceptable behaviour.

***Teachers will use professional judgement in relation to home learning not being completed on a regular basis.*

Review and Ratification

This policy will be reviewed regularly through consultation with pupils and staff and ratified by the Board of Management.

Jamie Fitzmaurice
Chairperson of the BOM

20th June 2023
Date

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