

North Dublin Muslim National School
Ratoath Road
Cabra
Dublin 7
20152L

Homework Policy
March 2014

Introduction

Homework is important in many ways, not least in developing a child's initiative and instilling a sense of **personal** responsibility. It also provides a valuable home-school link. The Co-Managers and the staff agree that homework is important towards the development of the children in our school, whilst also being mindful of the significant distances that many of the children travel to and from school every day.

We are also aware that some children in the school may attend language or Qura'nic schools in the evenings, and that this may curtail the time that they are able to spend doing homework. While we do not wish the child to be overloaded, we feel that homework can be a time that parent and child can spend together, where the parent can help their child reach their full potential. Parents are asked to assist their children each night, particularly with spelling (discuss meaning and orally put words into sentences) and reading.

Time spent on homework

- The class teacher will set the homework each night.
- The maximum amount of time the pupils in the North Dublin Muslim National School should spend doing homework is as follows:

Junior and Senior Infants	20 minutes
1 st and 2 nd classes	30 minutes
3 rd and 4 th classes	45 minutes
5 th and 6 th classes	1 hour

These are the recommended times. If pupils are spending a considerable amount of time more than this, parents are asked to contact the class teacher.

Content and giving of homework

- Homework is given each evening from Monday to Thursday.
- In the North Dublin Muslim National School, homework is not given at the weekends or during school holidays.
- Children in each class are set reading every evening, either in the form of a section from a book or sight words.
- English spellings will be set each evening from 1st Class to 6th Class.
- Maths tables will be set each evening from 2nd Class to 6th Class.
- Irish spellings are also set each evening from 2nd Class to 6th Class.
- The remainder of the homework given is at the discretion of the class teacher.
- The teacher will take into account the ability of each pupil and the pace at which they work when setting homework. This is done in consultation with the parents.
- It is not the responsibility of the school to provide additional work to the children who will be absent from school for extended periods of time (for holidays etc.)
- On occasions, the support teachers may assign homework. This is done in consultation with the class teacher.

Oxford Reading Tree Scheme

Each pupil receives a book each week and parents are expected to read these books with their child, as well as sign the record sheet provided. Some of these books have tips for parents when reading with their child. Parents are advised to follow these tips in order to gain the most from the reading session. Please note parents are expected to pay for any books lost during the course of the year.

Parental involvement

Parents are asked to make sure that children complete their homework every evening and sign the homework journal. We encourage parents to get involved, by listening to their child read and helping their children when necessary. However, in most cases the pupil should be encouraged to complete their homework independently, and the parents are asked to check that their child has finished the assignment to the best of their ability. If, for some reason, a pupil is not able to complete their homework, the parent must write a letter to the class teacher, explaining why the homework has not been done.

School procedure

- Teachers check that homework is completed and that the journal is signed every day.
- If a pupil comes to school with homework not completed to the best of their ability, or only partially completed, a note is written in their homework journal.
- If the parent has not signed the note the next day, the class teacher will call the parent, and will continue to do so until an explanation is received from the parent.
- On the third time that homework is not completed, and there is no letter of explanation from the parent, the teacher will send a letter home to the parents, informing them of the situation and asking to meet to discuss the situation.
- Any uncompleted homework is expected to be completed to the best of the pupil's ability within the same week.

Communication of school placement policy to school community

A copy of the school placement policy is made available on the school website. The policy can also be viewed in the office by appointment.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed by the school in 2016.

Ratification and Implementation

This policy was ratified by the Co-Managers in 2009 and reviewed in March 2014.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____