



## RAHEEN NATIONAL SCHOOL

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### Homework Policy

#### 1. Rationale

Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process in Raheen NS. It provides pupils with opportunities to practise, reinforce and extend the learning that takes place during the school day.

Raheen NS is committed to maintaining high standards of teaching and learning, and homework plays a key role in supporting this. It also helps to prepare pupils for the increasing demands of learning as they progress through the school and into post-primary education.

#### 2. Consultation Process

This policy has been developed following consultation with parents, including feedback gathered through a recent homework survey, ongoing discussion with teaching staff, and review and input from school management.

Survey responses from parents have played a significant role in shaping the adaptations made within this policy, ensuring a balanced approach that supports both learning and wellbeing.

#### 3. Aims of Homework

**Homework in Raheen NS aims to:**

- Reinforce and consolidate learning from class
- Develop independence, responsibility and organisational skills
- Establish positive study habits
- Prepare pupils for progression through the classes and for post-primary education
- Provide opportunities for revision and practice
- Allow parents to support and engage with their child's learning

#### 4. Recommended Time Guidelines

In line with Department of Education and National Parents Council guidance, the following timeframes are recommended (including reading time):

**Junior & Senior Infants: 10–20 minutes**

**1st & 2nd Class: 20–30 minutes**

**3rd & 4th Class: 30–45 minutes**

**5th & 6th Class: 45–60 minutes**

*These are guidelines only and may vary depending on the individual child.*

## **5. Class-Level Expectations**

### **Junior & Senior Infants:**

Homework should take 10–20 minutes. A strong focus is placed on reading, phonics and early numeracy. Homework should be a positive and manageable experience. **If a child is struggling or exceeding the recommended time, homework should be put away, even if unfinished.**

- **Fine Motor Skills & Hand Strength**

A key focus of homework in Junior and Senior Infants is the development of fine motor skills, hand strength and dexterity.

- Activities will support the development of correct pencil grip and letter formation
- Building hand strength at this stage is essential for writing development
- Tasks may include colouring, tracing, cutting, pattern work and early writing activities

This aspect of homework is vital in supporting children’s ability to write confidently and correctly as they progress through the school.

### **1st & 2nd Class:**

Homework should take 20–30 minutes. Increased focus on literacy, numeracy and simple written tasks. Children begin to develop independence and routine. **If a child is struggling or exceeding the recommended time, homework should be put away, even if unfinished.**

### **3rd & 4th Class:**

Homework should take 30–45 minutes. A balance of written, reading and learning work. Emphasis on accuracy, effort and presentation. Development of organisational skills and responsibility. **If a child is struggling or exceeding the recommended time, homework should be put away, even if unfinished.**

### **5th & 6th Class:**

Homework should take 45–60 minutes. Greater emphasis on independent work, revision and

preparation for secondary school. Introduction of longer-term tasks and project work where appropriate. **If a child is struggling or exceeding the recommended time, homework should be put away, even if unfinished.**

### **Homework Duration**

Homework is assigned in Raheen NS for approximately **30 weeks of the school year**. From the week of the **standardised tests at the end of May**, homework will no longer be assigned in any class.

### **6. Project-Based Homework**

From time to time, project-based homework will be assigned across the school.

- In senior classes, project homework will be assigned once per month
- In junior classes, project homework will be assigned once per term
- Reading and learning homework will continue as normal alongside project work
- Project work is intended to provide variety and enhance engagement with learning

These tasks are designed to promote creativity, independence, research skills and deeper understanding of topics explored in class.

### **7. Correction of Homework**

Homework may be corrected:

- Daily or weekly, depending on the nature of the task and class level

In senior classes where pupils engage in self-correction:

- The teacher will monitor and review corrections
- Any errors, difficulties or misconceptions will be addressed and explained

This approach supports pupils in developing responsibility, accuracy and a deeper understanding of their learning.

### **8. Incomplete Homework**

If a child is unable to complete part or all of their homework, a short note or a message on Aladdin should be sent to the class teacher explaining the reason. **If homework was not completed due to exceeding timeframe, please ensure you notify the teacher.**

Teachers will monitor incomplete homework to identify any patterns or concerns and will follow up with parents where necessary.

### **9. High Expectations at Raheen NS**

Raheen NS is proud of its reputation for high standards and strong academic outcomes. We expect that homework is completed to the best of each child's ability, work is presented neatly and with care, and pupils take increasing responsibility for their own learning. Homework is viewed as an important step in preparing pupils for the expectations of post-primary education.

### **10. Supporting Children at Home**

Parents play a vital role in supporting homework. We recommend providing a quiet, comfortable space for homework, establishing a consistent routine, minimising distractions, offering support when needed while encouraging independence, and checking homework is completed.

Parents should not feel pressure to help their child remedy their mistakes. Teachers need to see errors in order to identify and support areas of difficulty.

### **11. Time Concerns & Differentiation**

If a child is regularly taking longer than the recommended time to complete homework, it is essential that parents contact the class teacher.

This allows for discussion around the child's needs, adjustment or differentiation of homework where appropriate, and ensuring homework supports learning without causing undue stress.

Where a child has additional or diagnosed needs, homework may be significantly differentiated.

The support team, in consultation with the class teacher, may design homework, and parents will be supported in understanding how best to assist their child.

### **12. Transition & Adjustment**

At the beginning of each school year, children may find the increase in workload or change in expectations challenging. This is completely normal and not a cause for concern. With time and patience, children adapt quickly to the next stage of their learning.

To support this transition, many classes will complete homework in school during the first week of September. This allows teachers to assess whether the workload is appropriate and achievable for their class group.

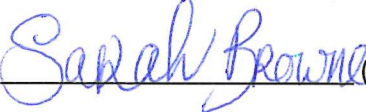
### 13. Conclusion

Homework in Raheen NS is designed to be purposeful, manageable and beneficial.

Through strong collaboration between school and home, we aim to ensure that homework supports learning, builds confidence and independence, and maintains the high standards our school is known for.

This policy will come into effect from the first day of term 1 in the school year 2026/27. This policy will be reviewed by the staff and Board of Management of Raheen NS in 2028.

Signed  (Chairperson) Date: 27/04/26

Signed  (Principal) Date: 27/04/26