

Lucan

COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOL
SCOIL NÁISIÚNTA POBAIL



Balgaddy, Lucan, Co. Dublin
Baile Gadaí, Leamhcán, Co. BÁC

Homework Policy



Lucan C. N.S. Homework Policy

Lucan Community National School prides itself in ensuring each child reaches his/her potential. Our ethos of excellence in education is one which we hold in esteem. Strengthening our links between the home and school is further enhanced by administering meaningful and purposeful homework. It is important that it be noted that homework may be differentiated for different individuals or groups depending on needs of the children.

In administering homework, teachers will bear in mind key points:

- Purpose of the homework.
- Efficiency of homework.
- Ownership of homework.
- Competence in completing homework.
- Aesthetic appeal of homework.

See more information on academic article [here](#) for purposeful homework.

1. Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. In younger classes, homework may be given on Monday and checked/collected each Friday.

There are two exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- In senior classes, some project work may be undertaken at weekends at teacher discretion

Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.

2. Why Give Homework?

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To develop a child’s concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- To develop organisational skills e.g. taking down homework correctly and bring home relevant books and materials.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children’s ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework neatly and to the best of their individual ability.

3. Content of homework

- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be “learned by heart”. Drawing / colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class.
- The use of IT in project work is encouraged.
- Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and checking learning homework to ensure this work is done well. Parents are encouraged to question pupils on their reading to help them build and improve their comprehension skills.

4. Guidelines for duration of homework:

The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	E.g. Phonics (10 minutes)
Senior Infants	E.g. Phonics/Blending/Reading (10-15 minutes)
Rang 1	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

If a student is spending consistently above these times, try practicing the steps below in order to support your child in completing their homework. Speak to your child’s class teacher if these strategies are exhausted.

5. Parents and Guardians

Parents and guardians should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- To prevent interruptions or distractions, like TV or phones.
- Introducing a timer for the children to help them to be aware of the amount of time their homework should take them and to keep them on-task while completing their homework has been a useful strategy.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.

6. Homework

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with a busy school day, it is not always possible to check each child’s homework every day. For younger classes, homework may be checked weekly.
- 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 self-assessment and the learning process for children.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the purpose of homework. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher at soonest convenience.