



Crecora National School Homework Policy

This draft homework policy review has come about as a result of reflecting on new practices adopted during the Covid 19 pandemic. According to Dr. Joan Kiely , Dean of Education at the Marino Institute of Education (MIE) , “Covid 19 is acting like a catalyst to shine the light on homework”. The way we live now has changed from the way we lived 30 years ago but homework has not really moved with the times. Research conducted by MIE has confirmed that homework is the source of “considerable stress regardless of children’s dispositions and academic abilities”.

In this context, the staff of Crecora NS has given time to considering the merits of homework and how best to make it purposeful. We also wished to have a whole school approach to homework and how we can best communicate it. Furthermore, we do not wish to return to a situation where children are bringing heavy schoolbags to and from school everyday for no reason.

There will be children for which homework is not appropriate or circumstances where differentiation is needed when a child is struggling with the prescribed homework, thus causing anxiety. In such circumstances, differentiation will be discussed with parents on an individual basis as has always been the case. It is our hope that most children will not find homework challenging and will be well able to manage it independently.

Reasons for giving homework:

- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To reinforce the learning experienced by the child during the school day.
- To enable parents to support the work of the school.
- To encourage study skills, concentration skills and a work ethic.

Objectives of this policy

- Ensure clarity to parents regarding content, approach, expectations, frequency and the method of communicating homework.
- To promote consistency of approach to homework across the curriculum.

- To reduce any stress experienced by pupils or parents around homework.

The following is the proposed outline of homework for the **Junior end of the school:**

- There is no need for school bags. However, a parent can send a small bag to school with his/her child if he/she wishes to do so.
- *Seesaw* will be the **platform for communication** of homework. This allows for explanation vimeos if necessary and online worksheets. It also allows for parents to communicate on minor issues relating to homework. All other issues will continue to be directed to the office.
- Homework will be sent out on a **weekly basis on Mondays** after school and pupils will upload homework for correction and validation.
- The **content** will be as follows:

Junior Infants	Senior Infants	First Class	Second Class
Phonological Awareness and Phonics: Nursery Rhymes sounds, blends Letter Formation Aistear Vocabulary English Reading (From March) Sight Vocabulary (From March) Maths Activity Grow in Love	Phonological Awareness and Phonics: Spelling List Handwriting Sight Vocabulary English Reading Maths Activity Grow in Love	Phonological Awareness and phonics: Spelling List English Reading English writing activity Maths activity Tables Grow in Love	Phonological Awareness and Phonics: Spelling List English Reading English writing activity Maths Activity Tables Gaeilge Léamh Irish Spellings (From Nov.) Grow in Love Prayers for Confession and Communion during the year.

Note: The work above is for the full week and not every night.

- There may be times when a worksheet from S.P.H.E may be sent home.
- As homework is sent out on a weekly basis, it will also be reviewed on a weekly basis. This may take any of the following forms: Approval, a like sign, a star rating, a comment or a voice note. On occasion, it will be returned for completion or amendment.

The following is the proposed outline of homework for the **Senior end of the school:**

- School bags are not necessary, but there is no objection to the pupils bringing small bags to school.
- Homework will be sent out on a **weekly basis on Mondays**. It will be sent on *Aladdin/Seesaw*. This allows for parents to communicate on **minor** issues relating to homework. All other issues will continue to be directed to the office.
- The work does not need completion until Thursday evening. Homework will be returned as directed.
- Work above will be supplemented or substituted at times by S.P.H.E activities, project work, Debates, Grow in Love worksheets or prayers for Sacraments and Poetry. Teachers may also send out links to useful websites to support the child's learning. The teacher also reserves his/her discretion to adapt homework when necessary to the needs of the class or for environmental or Seasonal reasons.
- Guided Reading will be given when applicable.
- Spelling sheets will be printed off and hard copies sent home.
- There will be a designated Maths Book specifically for home use.
- Reading at home is encouraged and facilitated by the provision of library books.
- Religion homework from *Grow in Love* will be assigned periodically.
- As homework is sent out on a weekly basis, it will also be reviewed on a weekly basis. This may take any of the following forms: Approval, a like sign, a star rating, a comment or a voice note. On occasion, it will be returned for completion or amendment.
- The **content** will be as follows:

Third Class(Weekly)	Fourth Class(weekly)	Fifth(weekly)	Sixth(weekly)
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Maths activity Tables English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spellings Irish Reading/Oral/Writing/Spelling Activity	Maths activity Tables English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spelling Irish Reading/Oral/Writing/Spelling Activity	Maths activity Tables(revision) English Reading/Oral/Writing Activity English Spellings Irish Reading/Oral/Writing/Spelling Activity	Maths activity Tables(revision) English Reading/Oral/Writing/Dictionary Activity English Spelling Irish Reading/Oral/Writing/Spelling Activity
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Time Allocation

Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. As homework is given on a weekly basis, time spent will 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. If homework becomes stressful or protracted, please stop and make the class teacher aware that it was your decision not to complete the homework. However, we welcome your support for homework and request that you encourage your child to do his/her best. Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. There may be other occasions where homework is not assigned.

Remember

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

Ratified by Board of Management on 29th November , 2021