



# Swords Educate Together National School

Roll Number 20145 O

## Homework Policy

### General Information

<b>Name of School:</b>	Swords Educate Together N.S.
<b>Address:</b>	Applewood, Swords, Co. Dublin.
<b>Telephone:</b>	01 8903899
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:info@swordseducatetogether.ie">info@swordseducatetogether.ie</a>
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.swordseducatetogether.ie">www.swordseducatetogether.ie</a>
<b>Denominational Character:</b>	Equality Based
<b>Patron:</b>	Educate Together

### Introductory Statement

This whole school plan was reviewed by the teaching staff of Swords Educate Together National School during the 2021/22 school year. It was then reviewed and updated accordingly by the In-School Management Team. Parent representatives were also asked for their input and feedback on this policy.

### Rationale

Swords ETNS considers homework to be important because it:

- reinforces and supports work done at school
- fosters a link between home and school
- keeps parents in touch with the curriculum and what their children are learning at school
- enables children to consolidate learning in their own time
- encourages independent learning, responsibility and good work habits
- assists teachers in assessing and evaluating the child's understanding and progress in a given area

Swords ETNS also acknowledges the fact that, while the above points are relevant and important, recent research highlights that the benefits of homework at Primary school level depends on the type of homework given. This policy therefore outlines different types of homework, while also allowing for 'traditional' homework where relevant.

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Principal: Karl Breen

Deputy Principal: Eoghan Beglan

## Time Allocation

**Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.**

*There may be some exceptions to the above, for example:*

- A child may be given 'homework off'/Homework Pass as a reward or on a special occasion.
- If a child has continuously neglected homework during the week they may be asked to complete unfinished work at the weekend.
- Project work, undertaken at senior classes, may require some additional work at weekends from time to time.

The following are the **guidelines** for time spent on homework. Time spent will vary from day to day and different children will complete the homework in different times.

- Junior Infants up to 15mins
- Senior Infants up to 20mins
- First Class up to 25mins
- Second Class up to 30mins
- Third Class up to 35mins
- Fourth Class up to 40mins
- Fifth Class up to 50mins
- Sixth Class up to 1hr

Please encourage your child to complete their homework in the above timeframe. If they are having difficulty with this, please stop them when the above time is up and speak to your child's class teacher.

## Guidelines for Teachers

- Homework should only consolidate work done in class and should never include new material
- Homework should be appropriate to the individual and should be differentiated to meet the needs of pupils where relevant.
- Homework should be properly explained to the children in advance.
- Homework is *never* given as a punishment (ref. Code of Positive Behaviour).
- Teachers outline activities on a weekly homework sheet for infant classes.
- Children have a homework journal from First Class upwards.
- Teachers set homework, review assignments and provide feedback to students on a regular basis.
- Teachers should provide a wide variety of different types of homework for pupils: oral, written, active etc. (See Appendix A)

## Guidelines for Parents

- Try and find a comfortable, quiet area in your home for your child's homework.
- Try and prevent interruptions or distractions like TV or other children.
- Ensure that your child has everything they need for their work.
- Encourage your child to eat something before starting their homework.
- Use lots of praise and encouragement.

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- Encourage increasing independence as your child gets older.
- Check the homework bag or journal every day to see what homework has been assigned.
- Ideally, homework should be done before any TV, playtime etc., soon after school while your child is focused. However, some children may need a break before they start.
- Encourage the children to take short/quick movement breaks to aid concentration.
- Encourage the children to take regular sips of water throughout.
- Please check that all homework has been completed before you sign the homework sheet or journal.
- If, for some reason, the homework is not completed, please inform the class teacher.
- Please ensure that your child takes good care of our school rental books and returns them to school each day.
- Remember, if homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Communicate any difficulties or concerns with regard to homework to the teacher. Class Teachers are available to talk/meet with you to discuss any worries you may have regarding homework. Please contact the office to make an appointment, if necessary.
- **Please note that homework will not be provided for individual children, on request (e.g. extra homework/holidays/illnesses). For extra educational activities at home we would recommend lots of reading, revision and discussion.**

### Guidelines for Pupils

- Have something to look forward to after you have finished your homework.
- Do your homework in a quiet place.
- Ask for help from your parents/guardians.
- Make sure your homework is always done. You must have a written note from a parent/guardian if it is not completed.
- Take short movement breaks if you need (e.g. 10 Jumping Jacks).
- Take regular sips of water throughout your homework time.
- Take your time doing your homework and present it well.
- Eat a healthy snack before you begin.
- Look after the school rental books.

### Teacher Evaluation of Homework

- Homework assists the teacher in assessing and evaluating the child's understanding and progress in a given area.
- Homework will be checked weekly.
- Teachers will have their own individual ways of assessing homework and this will be outlined to parents/guardians at parent/teacher meetings in the first term.
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by pupils themselves, under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for the children as it promotes responsibility, self-esteem and self-assessment.
- If homework is not done or is completed without care and attention, the pupil may be asked to complete it again.

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### **Implementation and Review**

This homework policy will be implemented throughout the school and will be reviewed accordingly. This will also allow an opportunity for parental feedback and input into the policy and for meaningful engagement to take place regarding any amendments to be made.

This policy will be published on the school website and provided to the Parent-Teacher Association (PTA). A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department of Education and Skills and the Patron, if requested.

### **Ratification of the policy:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on \_\_\_\_\_ and will be reviewed when applicable



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson, BOM)



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (School Principal)

Date: **20<sup>th</sup> September 2022.**

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## Appendix A: Content of Homework and Alternative Homework Suggestions

### CONTENT OF HOMEWORK

Ideally, homework will contain a balance between Oral Language, Reading, Writing and Numeracy tasks each night. This balance can vary from day to day. On occasion other homework topics may be included.

1. **Oral language** - This may include topics for discussion, rhymes, poems and songs.
2. **Reading** – This may include phonics, tricky or sight words, levelled readers, reading for pleasure, parents/carers reading to their children etc.
3. **Writing activities** – This may include maths exercises, English/Gaeilge comprehension activities or written work etc.
4. **Project work** - Project work may be given from 1<sup>st</sup> class upwards. Projects may be based on Aistear themes, topics from the Learn Together programme, strands from the SESE subjects etc. Pupils will be given a longer amount (minimum of 1 week) to complete project or research-based work.
5. **Active homework** – This may include forms of exercise for pupils, e.g. walking, jogging, jumping jacks etc. and will be linked to the P.E curriculum which is taught in school.
6. **Community responsibility** – This may include visiting an elderly neighbor or those in need, helping with a local tidy towns activity, picking up rubbish (Picker Pals initiative) from local areas etc.
7. **Particular events** – This may include specific tasks related to specific events or celebrations e.g. Book week, Science week, Active week, celebrations from the Learn Together Programme and Assembly themes.
8. **Particular Topics**: This may include topics which might be taught as part of our SPHE curriculum. Homework may involve written or oral homework from our Relationship & Sexuality Education Programme (RSE), our Stay Safe Programme, Anti Bullying Programme etc.

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