



St. Colmcilles Boys National School

Scoil Cholmcille

Navan Rd., Kells, Co Meath.

Principal: Mr Brendan Mc Cabe
Deputy Principal: Mrs Marian Mc Mahon

Phone: 046-40498
E-mail: colmcille.ias@tinet.ie

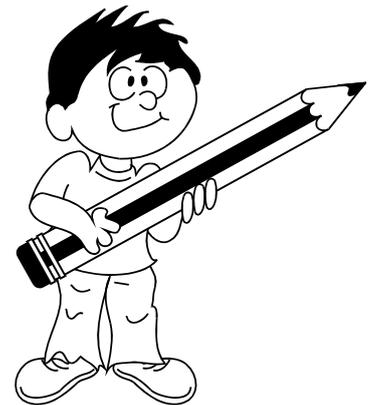
Homework - School Policy

Common sense will dictate to a teacher how much homework a child can be expected to do. The nature of the assignment and the age of the child will be the chief determining factors. An average first class child can happily spend an hour and a half on an assignment to collect leaves, insects or pictures, but is only capable of doing, at most, twenty minutes of arithmetic drill.

In this school homework will be assigned each night Monday to Thursday, but homework will not be given at weekends if the class teacher is satisfied that work has been done conscientiously during the week.

The average amount of homework given in each class shall be as follows:

Rang 1	-	20	minutes
Rang 2	-	20-30	minutes
Rang 3	-	30-40	minutes
Rang 4	-	40-45	minutes
Rang 5	-	45-60	minutes
Rang 6	-	60	minutes



Homework may be of two types. These are:

- Drill and exercise in the tool subjects. Study in these subjects can take many forms: arithmetic problems, studying and writing spelling lists, learning tables, practising penmanship, completing grammar exercises.
- Activities which supplement school instruction in the content subject. These can be drawing pictures and learning religion questions, making maps or scrapbooks, writing letters to pen pals, viewing recommended television programmes and collecting concrete materials that can be used in class.

Homework must never be an introduction to unfamiliar material. When a child is asked to study new and unfamiliar material, he is confused and often misinterprets the content. Some children may be tempted to badger their parents into doing their homework; others are given misinformation at home, while, worst of all, some children will be turned off homework through pure frustration.



Provided that children have a good comprehension of the content, there is nothing wrong with rote learning (tables, grammar rules, mnemonics) and memorising (poems, songs, religion questions).

In order that parents be acquainted with the homework which their children have to do, homework journals shall be used in each room. The children will write down their homework each evening before dismissal and shall have it signed by a parent upon completion. If homework is undone the class teacher shall write a signed note in the homework journal to that effect, that note to be countersigned by a parent that night. If homework is repeatedly undone the child shall be referred to the Principal. (See Code of Discipline).

Homework for above average pupils.

Above average people fall into three general groups, talented, superior and gifted. Talented pupils have above ordinary aptitude in special fields such as music, art, mathematics, design etc., but may only be rated as average on an overall intelligence test. Having a high capacity for training in their special fields, these pupils should be given advanced assignments in their area of ability. Members of the superior group are considerably above normal I.Q. range in most traits. They need challenging and stimulating homework. The gifted group, according to intelligence tests, constitutes approximately the upper 2% of the population. They are capable of outstanding achievement in at least one given field and often in several fields and of sustained concentration for long periods of time. They demonstrate originality, curiosity and resourcefulness and have perpetually questing minds.



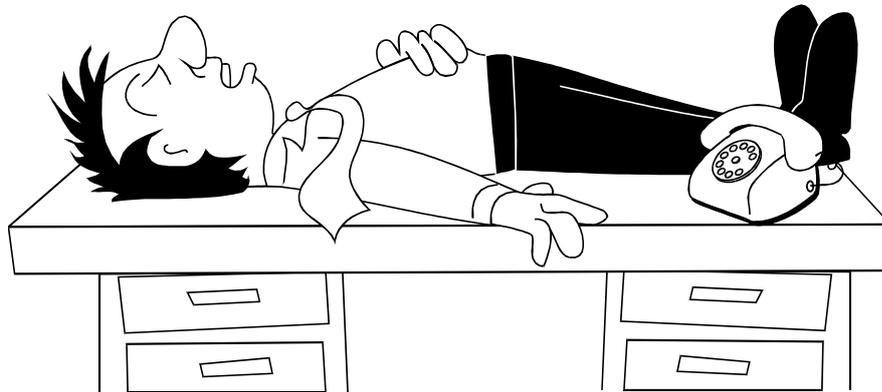
Though all three types of brilliant students need special attention most teachers' time, because of large classes, is, of necessity focused on the middle and weaker groups. This problem can to some extent be overcome by the resourceful allocation of interesting projects and assignments. This might include providing for originality and creative contributions in the making of charts, maps, graphs, diagrams etc. in writing compositions, preparing reports, publishing a class or a school newspaper. It might also include extra reading, which would necessitate provision by the teacher of supplementary reading material (library books, an encyclopaedia, selected magazines). Language could be developed by requiring from such pupils' reports, both oral and written, on selected TV programmes and films. Such work would also encourage critical expression.

Homework for below average pupils

Children with learning difficulties learn better through using concrete materials and by having relatively short assignments with repetition of simple facts and numerous illustrations. Because they are likely to require considerable individual assistance with homework it is important to set standards of achievement at the child's level. Do not assign the same quantity of homework to them as to the main body of the class. For instance, assign only the first five questions of a 15 - question exercise in grammar. Arrange for considerable practise with basic skills. Emphasise neatness and thoroughness in all they do.

Please Note

From the above it will be apparent that the amount of homework given to weaker and brighter children will differ from that given to the general body of the class. Try to ensure that as far as possible each child has sufficient homework to engage him for the required time, while also being conscious of not overburdening slow learners.



Teacher after correcting homework.