



Scoil Chroí Ró Naofa

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A GREEN SCHOOL

5th November, 2018

RESULTS

School Self-Evaluation Questionnaire for PARENTS – HOMEWORK 1st to 6th Class

All answers were typed out as written by parents on their survey form. A total of 51 families responded.

Question: Are you in favour of homework for primary school children?

YES 80%

NO 20%

Reason for answer:

1. It sets a good pattern of behaviour for secondary school.
2. But not as much as they get.
3. It prepares them for secondary school and third level. It helps parents see their academic level.
4. Because children lose interest after a few minutes and therefore not paying any attention to what they are doing, so then they do not learn what they just did.
5. To reinforce what has been learnt throughout the day.

6. Think it's a long enough day for kids.
7. I think children should get homework to take home based on areas in school that they might be having difficulty with.
8. Encourages the child to memorise their work from that day.
9. I think homework is a good way to recap what was learnt in school that day (a small amount of written and learning).
10. They should be after doing enough work in school. I don't mind them doing spellings and reading at home. That should be enough.
11. Helps them stay focused at home and it's good to be able to be involved with them doing homework at home.
12. When writing, it helps the children remember their spellings and to know that they have to do for homework.
13. I think the day is long enough on the kids in school.
14. 15 minutes homework enough. Nice to see what they're learning. Maybe writing one day and oral the next.
15. Increased repetition of material learnt that day, thus improving the learning.
16. I am in favour of doing reading and spellings and occasional projects. I am against written homework as I feel it is more important for children to have active time after sitting most of the day writing.
17. I think a small amount is good but feel big amounts are too much. Helps children to think for themselves.
18. But not as much as they get. The writing, learning and reading is too much.
19. A little bit of learning work e.g. spellings and verbs that only takes a little bit of time. On the winter days the evenings are short enough and the kids are extra tired and it is a battle to do homework, especially when parents are coming home from work.

20. I think the kids do enough work in school to then come home and do more feeds into family time.
21. Regular practice and routine aids learning.
22. I believe it reinforces their daily learning in school.
23. Reading should be encouraged, but by 3pm children should have done enough work and should be out playing and being active. Being children.
24. They do enough work in school. They should be out playing, exploring, experiencing, learning basic skills about life and being a kid. Let them read more in their spare time.
25. Within reason. 1 hour of homework after school a day at school is plenty.
26. Waste of 'super-educational' time not to use it for learning. **Something** has to compete with screens. A maximum of an hour or so.
27. I want to know what children are doing at school, their level of ability.
28. Gives me an insight into what they are doing in school.
29. Consolidate work in school during the day.
30. It's good for discipline and preparation for secondary school.
31. Yes so they can learn to study and learn after school.
32. Yes, to an extent. I feel there is too much emphasis on written homework and I especially think the mental maths book should be a work book that can be written on.
33. My daughter enjoys it.

Question: Should **5th and 6th Class** children be given an increased amount of homework to prepare them for secondary school?

YES

29%

NO

59%

No Reply/Blank

12%

If 'yes' what type of homework?

Reason for answer:

1. Oral answers to homework take less time. Let them enjoy last years before secondary.
2. Project work.
3. English, Maths and Irish.
4. Small bit more but not too much.
5. No more emphasis on learning how to study and revise.
6. As secondary school is long enough.
7. I personally found my child who entered secondary school was not ready for the extra **2** hour homework that was given, compared to 40 mins in primary.
8. Not every night anyway.
9. Projects and assignments to help them lay work out and they would also know where to begin when given work like this in secondary.
10. Maybe some project will help them during the year.
11. Not at all as they do not cover the same amount of subjects as what they do in secondary school.





12. They will already have to deal with a minimum 5 years of secondary school homework, to which they will quickly adapt.
13. Although I do agree with them being given weekly assignments/monthly projects.
14. They won't spend any extra time doing homework in secondary (excluding exam years). It would be better to prepared them from the point of view of organisational skills than volume – they will not have all subjects each day so possibly give some homework for tomorrow, some for 2 days' time and some for over the weekend.
15. If children become accustomed to adequate amount of homework – then it's not a shock when they go onto secondary level, thus allowing them more time to settle in socially and make new friends.
16. In moderation. Secondary school homework needs to be reviewed. Pupils put in longer working days at school than salaried '9 to 5ers'.
17. They do enough work as it is. They have sport and other outdoor activities that take up most of their and parents time.
18. If not, it would be sensible for athletes not to bother training for the Olympics.
19. To help prepare for the amount of secondary homework they will get.
20. They should get more than younger children but also more a revision/study type of homework.
21. No as I have heard from past pupils that they get less homework in secondary school.

Question	Positive or Very Positive	Neutral	Negative or Very Negative	Blank
What is your attitude to homework?	51%	39%	6%	4%

Question	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never	Blank
Is homework beneficial for your child?	39%	26%	29%	0%	6%
Does homework cause tension at home?	13%	22%	51%	14%	0%
How often does your child need help with homework?	24%	4%	66%	6%	0%

Question	Yes	No	Always	Blank
8 separate answers required				
What would you like to see as homework for your child on a nightly basis?				
• English Reading	76%	8%	14%	2%
• Irish Reading	63%	29%	6%	2%
• Spellings (Irish and English)	82%	4%	12%	2%
• English Writing	65%	25%	8%	2%
• Irish Writing	55%	41%	2%	2%

	Yes	No	Always	Blank
• Mathematic Tables	67%	20%	13%	0%
• Maths (mental work or topic work based on lesson of the day in class)	69%	20%	11%	0%
• Project Work (termly/monthly – depending on class level)	71%	24%	5%	0%

Question	Yes	No	Blank
One answer only per question required			
Do you agree with the list below which is the proposed daily homework for 1st and 2nd Class :			
Oral Work*			
• English Reading	65%	10%	25%
• Irish Spellings (2 nd Class only)	61%	14%	25%
• English Spellings (16 per week)	63%	12%	25%
• Tables	61%	14%	25%
Written Work			
• Mental Maths Book (one column nightly)	61%	14%	25%
Reason for answer – 1st and 2nd Class			
 I cannot help her with Irish if she needs me to.			
 Feel it is necessary.			
 Good to learn sentence structure.			
 Good for vocabulary.			

- ✚ Good for STEAM subjects.
- ✚ Too much homework.
- ✚ One subject in written h/w per night we believe is enough rather than several. If the child spends too long doing h/w they lose interest which adds no benefit.
- ✚ They do enough in school.
- ✚ I agree, however, we struggle as a family with English spelling; oral is fine but written is hard work.
- ✚ I think Irish and English spellings are enough to do in at home. They should do tables in school.
- ✚ All stories help the child's imagination to grow and hopefully will get them to read more.
- ✚ Some questions in the Mental Maths book are too hard.
- ✚ Need to enjoy reading rather than be fed up after doing written work. Can do tables in everyday life. Every month list of tables to be learning before next month They can spend more time on spellings and reading instead of rushing.
- ✚ I do not agree with homework. I feel the kids come home from school tired after a long day. To then have to do homework I think is too much for them and it also feeds into family/play time.
- ✚ 2nd Class are not getting an excessive amount of homework in my opinion. They could also cope with Spell Well and Réalta Litríú.
- ✚ Spellings are easier to learn in context. If you have to give written homework make it English or Irish to facilitate learning.
- ✚ All this is used on a daily basis.
- ✚ It includes English reading. The development of an interest in reading is fundamental to the ability to absorb information; while those left uninterested in reading are effectively committed to a shallow existence.

- ✚ Again, gives me knowledge of what my child is learning and what level they are at.
- ✚ Repetition is good for learning. Mental Maths shouldn't be daily, maybe every other night.
- ✚ I strongly disagree with the books being on the 'Book Rental' scheme. They should be a work book and also the questions don't always relate to what the child has learnt at the time.

<https://educationcloset.com/steam/what-is-steam/>

Question	Yes	No	Blank
One answer only per question required			
Do you agree with the list below which is the proposed daily homework for 3rd – 4th Class :			
Oral Work*			
• English Reading	67%	10%	23%
• Irish Reading	57%	20%	23%
• Irish Spellings (8/10 per week)	59%	18%	23%
• English Spellings (20 per week)	63%	14%	23%
• Tables	65%	12%	23%
Written Work			
• English (Spell Well Workbook)	53%	24%	23%
• Irish (Réalta Litriú Workbook)	49%	28%	23%
Reason for answer – 3rd and 4th Class			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Basic and necessary. ✚ Good for learning story structure. Good for vocabulary. Good for STEAM. Good for reinforcing learning. ✚ Too much homework. ✚ We believe one subject per night that alternates. Even if this means spending 10/15 mins on one subject rather than 			

5 mins on each, it would be more beneficial.

- ✚ To practice. To reinforce work done. To prepare for secondary school level of work. Note: perhaps not as much homework to be given at this age. I think they are too young still but a little of everything.
- ✚ The children do enough in school.
- ✚ The problem we have is with Maths (Satellite Book). This is where there's a bit of a struggle and tension. The questions that are asked I don't think she has done before in school. we are trying to explain how to do it and don't know if we are telling her the right or wrong way.
- ✚ I cannot help him with his Irish reading. He reads his own English books. Tables should be done in school.
- ✚ Agree to all but sometimes feel there is too much homework.
- ✚ All the learning and written work is too much.
- ✚ I firmly believe that the core subjects i.e. Irish, English and Maths, as taught daily should be given as both written and oral homework nightly to maintain a good concept of both written and verbal. After all primary education is the foundation to secondary – shame to see Irish standard of education to go down.
- ✚ This isn't much of a reduction. Irish reading is replacing two maths books.
- ✚ Preparing for workload in secondary school.
- ✚ All needed, especially English and Tables. We also think written maths is needed.
- ✚ Less spellings. Less written work.
- ✚ None of us speak Irish and we cannot help if she needs us to. We don't always have access to the internet (if we did this would have changed my answers).

Question	Yes	No	Blank
One answer only per question required			
Do you agree with the list below which is the proposed daily homework for 5th – 6th Class :			
Oral Work*			
• English Reading	65%	10%	25%
• Irish Reading	53%	22%	25%
• Irish Spellings (10/12 per week)	57%	18%	25%
• English Spellings (28 per week)	61%	14%	25%
• Irish Poem (2 per month)	48%	27%	25%
• English Poem (2 per month)	53%	22%	25%
• Tables	61%	14%	25%
• Irish Verbs	59%	16%	25%
Written Work	61%	14%	25%
• Maths			
Reason for answer – 5th and 6th Class			
<p>✚ Necessary.</p> <p>✚ Good for reinforcing learning and STEAM. Poems unnecessary at primary level.</p> <p>✚ Too much homework.</p> <p>✚ Yes, but increase slightly during the year to prepare for secondary school. Also introduce Friday homework in preparation for homework in secondary.</p> <p>✚ It looks like a lot of homework per night. I know the poems are two a month but I do think it's a lot.</p> <p>✚ A greater emphasis needs to be placed on English literacy, comprehension, composition and the physical act of</p>			

writing itself. While a worthwhile part of our heritage, Irish won't serve the child as well as English will, particularly beyond secondary school. Pointless rote memorisation of poems (English or Irish) should be avoided unless accompanied by an element of applied critical thinking. If a child isn't proficient in their times tables by 5th/6th Class, realistically, emphasis should be placed upon the problem solving element of mathematics (as during their first day of secondary school they will be instructed to use a calculator for all of their sums). Note: feedback only provided for 5th/6th Class students as I don't currently have a child under my care in either of the other categories.

- ✚ Poems are just something that are rattled off. I would prefer more time for maths, tables and spellings without the pressure of learning 4 poems a month that they will never need.
- ✚ Too much homework.
- ✚ There are probably not enough school hours to practice these enough. These tasks are essential for life.
- ✚ I would like to see English written once a week in preference to not at all.
- ✚ I believe that the list for 5th/6th Class is not too much for any pupil in these classes – they are at the senior end of school – soon heading to secondary. They will need a great grasp of these core subjects, as when they go to secondary they will be presented with new subjects which will take some getting used to, along with every other aspect of school. I don't personally believe anything is going to be achieved by leaving off written work. If only oral homework is given most children will view it as not homework and not bother learning, thus resulting in lower grades. I believe, presently the written English and Irish homework is of great benefit in learning their spellings, as opposed to just learning them orally each night. I think the books would never be opened after 3pm!
- ✚ It is a long list. Looks time consuming. I have no experience of 5th/6th Class to rate this against.
- ✚ Everything okay here, but in this day and age, I don't see the relevance of an Irish and English poem on the listing.

✚ To expand their vocabulary and comprehension of both languages.

✚ Overall I just think it's not the homework as such, it's the amount of it. Less spellings and only 1 poem in each language per month. Maths is okay but way too much.

Any other comments or suggestions?

1. Homework is a great tool for reinforcing classroom learning. It might be helpful to provide parents and guardians with guidelines for what is expected of them while doing homework with their children. An A4 sheet with tips for reducing stress around homework would be helpful too.
2. Just reading and spellings is more than enough for any child in primary school.
3. I agree with homework to be given but not at the amount that is given at the moment. It's a lot if a child is struggling with a subject. This can take up a lot of time in the evening and in turn increase the chances of the child disliking the subject any more.
4. I think oral homework is a great idea, as a parent you can interact more with them. Also, I feel that when they are doing written homework they complain more as perhaps they have done lots of writing during their school day.
5. As much as I would encourage the children to do their reading and spellings. I do feel there is no need to have so much written work as well for homework. They should get project work to do, but not alongside of written homework as their other extra-curricular activities will suffer. We can't try to encourage children to go outside or do more active activities and then they don't get enough time to do them due to too much homework. Other activities are needed for their mental health and physical health so they are as important as learning in school.
6. Allow the children to read their own books at home but ask them about them in class. All children have no interest in the readers they bring home. Irish reading is very difficult at home when the parents can't speak Irish.

7. Homework if it's oral or written is very helpful for the children to do. If everyone did their homework it would be easier for them doing tests. I don't agree with load of homework for 5th/6th Class. It seems like a lot to do.
8. In my opinion I don't think there should be a necessity for homework but as this is something that will not change I think that the most beneficial subjects are those that should be concentrated on, especially at primary level.
9. Still want to see children doing written homework at home. Maybe week on week off of written then oral. 15-20 minutes most for each day, so children and parents can enjoy doing homework together without it being a chore. Monthly updates if child needs to work on something. Maths week seems to be great fun and making them interested so maybe more things like this. Learning while having fun.
10. When children have 'Sing Out Loud'/'Rackard League' homework is tough at home afterwards. Could kids be allowed to start homework in school for maybe a half hour, to take pressure off them in the evenings when participating in after school events?
11. Written and learning all in one night is too much.
12. I would like to see more of an emphasis on spoken Irish e.g. practising a thematic comhrá per week.
13. My personal opinion is that I prefer to see my children doing written homework. It reinforces their learning and by Thursday evenings, it's only basic revision of their spellings. If this was not given and it was only oral work, I don't believe they would sit down and learn spellings (Irish and English) or tables and would find it more difficult to learn. Why change a system that has worked for years? Anything written is surely worth keeping than freeing up children's spare time to allow further time each evening to sit in front of X-Boxes and PlayStation. I might seem old fashioned, but a happy medium – half written, half oral – has always achieved results, so personally I don't want to see any changes.

14. I'd be all for pupils spending an extra half hour in school a day if it meant they walked out the door at 3.30pm entirely free of homework. Children need time to grow and develop as children, not just students.
15. Maybe music or songs might be more relevant than poems going forward.
16. First, despite our increasingly 'snowflake' culture, one feels it's still important to 'push' kids a bit at this early super-absorptive stage of their development. Makes later education, and life, so much more rewarding. Second, getting the kids to tidy and clean up after themselves as normal behaviour, is also a super investment for future life. Thank you.
17. I strongly feel when you set a project to do at home then no other homework should be given to facilitate the project work. I feel it shouldn't take up weekends as children need to spend quality time outside or doing recreational/sporting activities which is essential for physical and mental well-being.
18. Where possible homework shouldn't go on for more than 30-40 minutes and it does in my house. The children lose interest and only do it to get it done.
19. I do think it is very important for all children to learn Irish, but I worry my child will fall behind as I cannot help with this at home if we have no internet. It would be great if there was another way to help her with Irish homework.