



Home-School Learning Policy 2019

Introduction

This policy was formulated as an interim policy for one school year to provide guidelines on Home-School Learning in Junior and Senior Infants and to allow for parental consultation and feedback.

Rationale/ Objective

At Harold's Cross Educate Together National School, we strongly believe in the power of play and the importance of letting children be children. We believe, when pupils work hard at school each day, they should have time to relax and explore their own interests in their free time. We place a huge value on the development of the holistic pupil, where all talents, hobbies and interests are encouraged and celebrated in our school community.

This policy outlines our school's commitment to creating and maintaining meaningful links with the home and school in relation to every child's learning. We endeavour to provide the pupils with an opportunity to share their in-class learning experiences with families on an ongoing basis. Therefore, in place of a homework policy, we are developing a home-school learning policy to help strengthen the link between the home and school whilst promoting the growth of life-long learners in our school community.

Aims:

The aims of this policy are:

- to actively promote a link with the home and school in relation to pupil's in-class learning
- to provide members of the school community, staff, parents/carers and pupils with a clear vision in developing a positive approach to pupil's learning in school
- to support and encourage life-long learning habits in children
- to support the school's wellbeing policy
- to help improve children's concentration, learning and energy levels
- to support parents/carers in developing their pupil's interest in learning
- to foster a positive school community
- to encourage self-reflection in all members of the school community

School Staff Roles and Responsibilities

- School Staff will encourage pupils to share their experience of extra-curricular activities in class during Oral Language classes
- Pupil's extra-curricular achievements (however big or small) will be acknowledged and commended in school
- School Staff will provide an opportunity for parents to see the learning that is happening in

class.

- Each Friday, teachers will send home one piece of learning with each child. This may include a workbook, copy, picture, sound list.
- Over the course of a month, a piece of learning from Literacy, Numeracy and Gaeilge will be sent home with each pupil.
- Share any concerns with parents/ carers in relation to pupil's learning during the school year

Parent's Roles and Responsibilities

- Engage in conversations with pupil about their learning in school.
 - When the child's learning is sent home on Fridays, no extra learning is required. Work is sent home to reinforce what is being learned in school and children can share their work with families.
 - To reinforce the positive learning experiences parents/ carers may ask questions such as 'What was your favourite part of doing this activity? What did you learn doing this activity? Can you show me the best part of your work? Is there a part that you could work harder on the next time? Next time this activity is sent home, what can you do to make it better?'
- Ensure all work is sent back to school on Monday mornings so teachers can use the resources during the week
- Express any concerns over pupil's learning with class teacher. Meetings can be arranged where there is a serious concern over child's progress.

Pupil's Roles and Responsibilities

- Engage in conversation with parents about their work during the week.
- Have learning activities in schoolbag on Monday mornings, ready for school.

Other Tips and Hints

- Pupils should have every opportunity to read for pleasure at home. Visiting a local library, listening to bedtime stories and sharing books with friends could be a good way of creating interest in stories for pupils.
- Pupils should have every opportunity to use mathematics at home. Counting money, baking and measuring, building something together. Children can also mix in math to their bedtime reading.

We are encouraging best practice during school hours. For this policy to be successful, we need support from the whole school community.

School Support

If there are any concerns about a pupil's learning, a meeting can be arranged with the class teacher to discuss the pupil's learning. Extra support may be provided during school time by the teacher or the Special Education Team.

Dissemination of Policy

The attention of all parents will be drawn to this policy when enrolling their child(ren) in the school. The attention of all newly appointed staff will be drawn to this policy upon their appointment to the school. This policy will be published on the school website and provided to the Parent-Teacher Association, when established. Hard copies of this, and all school policies, are available at the school on request.

Implementation and Review

This policy will be implemented from January 2020.

This policy will be reviewed in October 2020.

Ratification and Communication

A draft copy of the policy was approved by the school Board of Management on ... and was the sent to all families in December 2019, for feedback and suggestions. The final draft was ratified on

Signed: _____ (Chairperson Board of Management)

Date: