



Home-School Learning Policy

Introduction

This policy was formulated to provide guidelines for Home School Learning on our school.

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. Children can share their learning by sharing in class during oral language time.
- Pupil's extra-curricular achievements (however big or small) will be acknowledged and commended in school
- We wish to acknowledge that many children speak different languages at home. Home learning can be shared in the pupil's own language during oral language lessons in school. Extra learning in any language will be welcomed when children are sharing their learning.
- School Staff will provide an opportunity for parents to see the learning that is happening in class.
- 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.
 - 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 the specified date 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, ready for school on the specified date.

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.

During school hours, we encourage reading for pleasure and create engaging activities to support the development across all subjects. For this policy to be successful, we need support from the whole school community to celebrate and encourage the pupils learning and engagement in learning.

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. Following discussions with the class teacher, extra support may be timetabled 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 Staff 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 1st October 2023.

This policy will be reviewed in May 2026.

Ratification and Communication

This policy was approved by the school Board of Management on _____.

Signed: _____ (Chairperson Board of Management)

Signed: _____ (Principal Harold's Cross Educate Together National School)

Date:

Appendix 1

Homework Plan for Whole School

- Homework will be sent home the first Monday of every month. This will either be shared via Aladdin or printed out and given to children to bring home. This will be determined by the class teacher's preference.
- Homework will give an overview of what was covered in school the month previous in the curriculum areas of numeracy, literacy and Gaeilge. Parents and Guardians are encouraged to discuss and revise what was covered in school in an informal and fun way throughout the coming month.
- A homework grid will be included in monthly homework. This grid will focus on themes being covered in SESE and Learn Together for the coming month. Children are encouraged to self-select item(s) from the grid that they would like to complete over the course of the month. We recognise that all children learn in different ways, and we encourage children to present their homework in a way that excites them and meets their learning needs. Examples could include PowerPoint, creating posters, video recordings, art pieces, recorded interviews etc. These item(s) will be presented/discussed in school at times decided by the class teacher. Example of monthly homework grid below.

Please note, that any homework sheets sent home as part of the Stay Safe programme in SPHE are mandatory. More information about the Stay Safe programme can be found here: <https://www.staysafe.ie/index.htm>

Example of a monthly homework grid for SESE theme of Autumn for Junior Infants:

Go on a nature walk	Make an art piece from leaf rubbings	Collect conkers and practice writing numbers on them.
Make a hedgehog out of leaves	Do print making with apples cut in half	Plant pumpkin seeds
Create a stick-man	Draw animals that hibernate	Find out three facts about -Bats -Hedgehogs -Or Foxes

Example of a monthly homework grid for SESE theme of Space for 3rd Class:

Project on planet of your choice	Research and draw 5 different constellations	Create an art piece depicting an astronaut
Create a model of our solar system	Draw and label the phases of the moon	Create a sundial at home
Create your own spaceship	Research the moon landing	Create galaxy slime

We at Harold's Cross Educate Together N.S. wish to support all students in developing the lifelong skill of reading for pleasure. We actively encourage reading to be part of a child's everyday routine and would encourage all parents to spend time listening to their child read aloud every day or read to them every day.

Should any parents/guardians wish for their child to have a levelled reader sent home with them for homework for the month, this can be facilitated by the child's class teacher.