



Harcourt Terrace Educate Together National School

Email: info@htetns.ie

Address: Harcourt Terrace, Dublin 2. D02 FC64

No: 01 5292970

Homework Policy

Mission Statement: Harcourt Terrace ETNS is an Educate Together School, run in accordance with the Rules for Primary Schools of the Department of Education and Science. We at Harcourt Terrace ETNS, seek to provide an environment that is child-centred, co-educational, equality-based and democratically run. Our mission is to educate our pupils to their fullest potential while enhancing their self-esteem and creativity. All pupils are treated as individuals and their uniqueness is celebrated. All members of our school community are encouraged to respect themselves and others and we aspire to provide our children with the life skills necessary to become the best they can be.

Rationale:

Homework is important in many ways, not least in developing a child's initiative and instilling a sense of personal responsibility. It also provides a valuable home-school link. We are also aware that some children in the school may attend after school activities or afterschool in the evenings, and that this may curtail the time that they are able to spend doing homework. While we do not wish the child to be overloaded, we feel that homework can be a time that parent and child can spend together, where the parent (as the primary educator of their child) can help their child reach their full potential.

The NCCA offers practical guidance on how best to integrate homework, taking account of other needs such as recreation and family life in general. It also stresses where possible, the important role that parental involvement plays –to encourage and support children in finding their own way and building trust in their own skills. We strive to make this policy reflective of our wide range of learners but acknowledge that it may be adapted for future use. As with all HTETNS policies it shall be reviewed on an on-going basis.

The policy sets out a schedule of when homework is expected throughout the academic year. In so doing there is an emphasis on enabling teachers and children flexibility in the way in which they engage with the curriculum, to best support the individuals' learning needs. When homework is given, it is under the guidelines set down by this policy. The expected duration has been reviewed and reduced (as per response to our own parent survey). We have also factored in the responses from our children in their survey and have taken into consideration topics and activities that they deem important and enjoy doing.

Time Spent:

Taking into consideration the feedback from both parent surveys and our Student Council, as well as the professional opinions of the teachers in HTETNS this policy enacts the following timeframe for homework given in each class:

- Junior Infants will have 10 minutes homework prescribed.
- Senior Infants will have 10 minutes homework prescribed.



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- First Class will have 15 minutes homework prescribed.
- Second Class will be 15 minutes homework prescribed.
- Third Class will be 20 minutes homework prescribed.
- Fourth Class will be 20 minutes homework prescribed.
- Fifth Class will be 25 minutes homework prescribed.
- Sixth Class will be 30 minutes homework prescribed.
- ALC homework will align with the child's peer age group and be adapted to meet individual needs.

If pupils are spending a considerable amount of time more than this, parents are asked to contact the class teacher.

Content and Giving of Homework:

Considering the feedback received from our consultation process, please see below the structure and content of homework in HTETNS:

- Homework is to be given from Monday to Thursday. There is no homework assigned on any Friday.
- There will be 1 day each week (Wellness Wednesdays) assigned to Active Homework. The children will select a homework option from the Junior Choice board (Junior Infants-2nd class) or the senior choice board (3rd-6th class). See examples via school website: [Homework - Harcourt Terrace Educate Together National School](#)
There will still be reading related homework also assigned on this day.
- There will be no homework assigned in the month of June.
- Special occasions whereby homework may not be assigned is at the principal's discretion only.
- Reading will be given each day Monday to Thursday.
- Literacy or Mathematics based homework will be given each day (Monday to Thursday) except on our day of Active Homework. It is at the discretion of each teacher to organise this, as best suits the needs of their class.
- Literacy & Mathematics based homework will be based on current classroom topics or revision of previous classroom topics.
- There will be project-based homework assigned at the discretion of the class teacher. During this time, children will focus on the assigned project homework instead of the choice board. (Project topics will be based around the following subjects: History, Geography, Science, Art, Music, Ethical Core Curriculum).
- On occasion and in line with the specific learning targets of the children in question, Support Teachers may also assign homework in collaboration with the class teacher.

Homework While Absent:

It is not the responsibility of the school to assign homework to children who are absent for extended periods of time. There is one exception to this which are as follows:



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- A child who is unable to return to school due to a family bereavement/serious illness and the parents/guardians of the child wish to continue homework during this time.

Parental Involvement:

It is important to acknowledge that parent-guardians are the primary educators of their children. Homework therefore can provide a time in the day for parents to check in with their child's learning in school. We encourage parents to get involved, by listening to their child read and helping their children when necessary. However, in most cases our children should be encouraged to complete their homework independently. For our younger children independent work will occur under the supervision of an adult.

Parents are asked to make sure that children complete their homework every evening. Homework will be written down by children in their homework journals or else shared via the Aladdin Connect App.

School Procedures:

Each week class teachers will check in with their students to see how they are doing with their homework. How this is completed is at the discretion of the class teacher. Please see the following points which outline how this may look:

- This can come in the form of discussion or asking questions pertaining to the assigned homework in class.
- For reading homework, the class teacher may revise key words in the story and/or check reading of the story/passage in class.
- For literacy & Maths homework, the class teacher will check in with the children via discussion and questioning also. There may also be an element of checking for understanding following homework through written questions in copies, mini whiteboards, interactive whiteboard etc.
- For project and active based homework, photos of work may be uploaded to Aladdin via the Aladdin Connect App or sent in as a hard copy.

Communication of School Policy:

Once ratified his policy will be made available view on the school's website. Parent-guardians will be informed when it is available to view here.

Policy Review:

This policy will be reviewed in October 2028.

Policy Ratification:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on _____.

Signed on Behalf of the Board of Management:

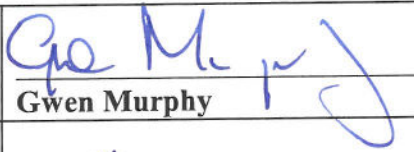


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Chairperson:	 Gwen Murphy
Date:	<u>1st</u> October 2026
Principal:	 Tony Walsh
Date:	<u>1st</u> October 2026