



**Cherrywood
Educate Together
National School**

Home-School Learning Policy

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Rationale/ Objective

At Cherrywood 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.

"The school recognises that homework in the upper years (4th-6th class) can play an important role in preparing students for the demands of secondary school, and the school endeavours to support its students to successfully transition from primary to secondary school. Cherrywood ETNS will introduce an appropriate home learning policy for such class groups before September 2025.

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/guardians/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 help improve children's concentration, learning and energy levels
- to support parents/guardians/carers in developing the child'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

The following points will detail how the school staff will communicate with the child's guardian(s) to provide suggestions for supporting learning at home.

Reading

- We place a huge value on the importance of reading in Cherrywood ETNS. From January of Senior Infants onwards, children will be sent home one/two readers a week. At times this may include reading activities.

Fortnightly email

- Teachers will send home a fortnightly email outlining what they hope to be covered in the coming weeks.
- The email will include some suggested activities or games that can be played at home to support what is being learned in school.

SeeSaw

- Teachers will update Seesaw regularly to provide parents/guardians with updates of what their children are doing in school, along with pictures of their children's work.
- Teachers may also use SeeSaw to upload content that can be practiced at home (for example, pronunciation of some phonics, poems, songs etc).

Additional support

- Occasionally, a class/ SET teacher may decide that a child would benefit from additional support. A teacher may contact a parent/guardian and ask for the child to be supported further at home by completing additional activities. If there are any concerns about a child's learning, a meeting can be arranged with the class teacher to discuss the child's learning. Extra support may be provided during school time by the teacher or the Special Education Team.

Folder

- Throughout the year class teachers will send home a folder of work completed in class

Parent's/ Guardian's Roles and Responsibilities

SeeSaw

- Engage in conversations with children about their learning in school. Parents/guardians are encouraged to talk with their child about the photos.
- To reinforce the positive learning experiences parents/guardians/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?'

Reading

- From January of Senior Infants onwards one or two readers are sent home weekly with each child. Every effort should be made to encourage the children to read these books daily.
- Parents/Guardians should ensure the books are returned each week so they can be

replaced by the class teacher.

Communication

- Parents/Guardians are encouraged to express any concerns over their child's learning with the class teacher. Meetings can be arranged where there is a serious concern over the child's progress.

Pupil's Roles and Responsibilities

- Engage in conversation with parents about their work during the week.

Other Tips and Hints

- The school's website will contain a Padlet of websites/resources for each class band where suggested activities can be accessed.
- Children 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 children.
- Children 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.