



Holywell Educate Together National School

Weekly Home Goals Policy and Procedure

May 2022

What is the purpose of giving weekly goals?

- To promote, encourage and value parental/guardian involvement and the important connection between home and school.
- To help the child develop the habit of independent study and a strong work ethic.
- To encourage the child to manage their time efficiently.
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the work being done in school.

How often?

- A 'Weekly Goals' plan for the week is delivered to children on a Monday with the view to tasks being completed by Thursday/Friday morning.
- Weekly Goals are not given during weekends or holidays.
- Weekly Goals are limited during the months of September, December and June.
- It is school policy **not to allocate** or prepare Weekly goals for children who are on holiday during school time. Parents/Guardians of children who are sick for an extended period/hospitalised should discuss this with the class teacher.

Which goals?

Ideally, Weekly Goals will explore all aspects of the curriculum: reading, written, learning tasks, research-based project work, numeracy, life skills, oral presentations, physical activities and exploration of the arts.

1. **Written Work**

Written work should be presented in a neat and careful manner, with attention to handwriting, margins, numbering, punctuation and underlining. Written tasks will often involve finishing work

which has been started in class. Where workbooks are being used, we would ask parents/guardians to sign the finished work.

2. Oral Work

From First Class onwards, Weekly Goals will involve learning spellings, tables and certain information to be learnt off-by-heart. Irish spellings will be introduced in term 2 of 2nd class. Oral work may include interview questions about what happened during the school day and special interest Dojo vlogs.

3. Reading

It is important to note that reading is just as important a component of the Weekly Goals as writing and evidence-based learning. It should be an enjoyable experience for the child. We would encourage parents/guardians to listen to their child as they read aloud to encourage fluency. Asking questions about the text will develop understanding and comprehension.

4. Physical Activity

In keeping with the holistic development of the child and to promote positive mental health, children are encouraged to get outside as part of their Weekly Goals and practise skills explored in their PE lessons.

5. The Arts

As per physical activity, to fully allow opportunities for the development of the child, a focus will be put on practising musical skills and making creative visual art projects.

6. Life Skills

Life skills are so important to the development of the child and should be encouraged as part of Weekly Goals. Eg. Gardening, tying shoes, setting the table, making a bed, sweeping the floor etc.

7. Project Work

From classes 1st to 6th, children should complete a written/illustrated or digital-based project on a given topic.

There should be an emphasis on student choice. The following table should be followed where possible, in order to avoid repetition of topics as the child progresses through the school.

Class	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3
1st	N/A	European Country	Sport
2nd	N/A	Irish County	National Dish
3rd	Aspects of Ancient Egypt or the Vikings	Asian Country	Myth, Legend or Folktale from around the World
4th	Aspects of Ancient Greece or the Celts	African Country	World Festival
5th	Aspects of the Great Famine or the American Revolution	South American Country	Inspirational Figure
6th	Aspects of WWI or WWII	USA, Mexico, Canada and Oceania Country	Famous Invention

In order to develop the child's confidence throughout the year and allow them to experience their own successes, photos and videos of completed tasks can be uploaded on the child's online Dojo portfolio.

How much time on Weekly Goals?

Some children will take longer than others to complete the same goals. Time spent on goals can vary from day to day and from week to week. The quality of the finished goal and the effort involved by the individual child is what matters most.

The following are guidelines for approximate time spent on completing goals per day:

When parents/guardians are satisfied that the recommended time has been spent (i.e. quality time without interruption) in completing goals, the journal should be signed.

How can parents/guardians help?

- From First Class onwards journals will be used to log completed tasks. All allocated goals will be recorded there. Children should tick each item as it has been completed.
- In Junior and Senior Infants, where journals will **not** be used, information about Weekly Goals will be communicated to parents/guardians on the Parent and Guardians' Evening in September and by the class teacher throughout the year.
- Parents/guardians should encourage children to begin their goals early in the evening and as soon as possible after coming home from school. Since there is a week's worth of goals, children can choose on what days to complete what goals.
- Where possible, the child should be sitting comfortably at a table and in a room where there are few distractions as i.e. away from TV or other children.
- Parents/guardians can encourage their children to keep books, project displays and copies as neat and clean as possible.
- If the child is working independently, try to be available to help where necessary. Check the work being done and praise at every opportunity.
- Be patient. Signs of impatience and annoyance will only have a negative effect.
- Completing weekly goals should be attainable by the child. They are normally based on current aspects of the curriculum being taught. The teacher sets all Weekly Goals. Parents/guardians should support their children and when applicable, get involved in the various goals.
- If a child is **persistently** experiencing difficulty in completing goals, or is spending much, more time than what is appropriate, the parent/guardian should contact the class teacher to discuss an alternative arrangement.

Parents/guardians should never complete goals for their children.

- If, on occasion, goals cannot be completed, please let the teacher know via a note in the journal, or via Class Dojo or email.
- Children are expected to complete goals to the best of their own individual ability.
- Parents/guardians should check the Parent/Guardian/Teacher communication in their child's journal regularly and/or link into Class Dojo information.

Golden Ticket/Giving Feedback

A child's efforts may be recognised by way of a 'Golden Ticket'. This allows a child to present part of their completed goals that they are proud of. In doing so, the teacher will be able to correct, examine and give feedback to the child and the class as a whole.

Teachers may like to address the goals daily, however, due to large class sizes, this may not always be possible. The 'Golden Ticket' gives the teacher an opportunity to randomly check a child or children's completed goals in order to validate their work and have them reflect on the week's menu of goals.

Key Points

- Work is presented on Monday morning and should be completed during the week
- All areas of the curriculum should be included but should be an extension of work carried out in the classroom
- There should be student choice every week
- Work should be posted on Class Dojo Stories
- Check work when possible (Golden Ticket)

- Amount of time spent, per day

Junior/Senior Infants: **up to 20 minutes**

First/Second Class: **up to 30 minutes**

Third/Fourth Class: **up to 45 minutes**

Fifth/Sixth Class: **up to 1 hour**

