



# Ardrahan National School

## Homework Policy

The Board of Management of Ardrahan National School recognises homework as an integral link in the chain of communication between school and home. Parents can monitor the progress of their children through continual reference to homework journals and communication with teachers.

### Aims

In general, the broad aims of this homework policy are to:

- re-inforce what the child learns during the day
- promote the use of homework to consolidate learning of subject matter taught at school
- promote consistency and a uniform approach to homework across all class levels
- keep parents in touch and involved in their child/children's education
- develop and encourage the habit of independent study
- enable children to develop a sense of responsibility and independence
- enhance the self-esteem of a child by presenting tasks that are achievable, i.e. providing an opportunity to practice work already done. It is normally prepared in class by the teacher. However, in senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity
- further develop home-school links.

### Guidelines for Teachers

- Homework should never be given unless the teacher has thoroughly prepared and explained what is to be done.
- Teachers will check that homework is completed and will give extra help where difficulties occur. Teachers will also differentiate homework as appropriate for pupils with additional needs.
- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. However, there are two exceptions:
  - i. If homework has been neglected during the week
  - ii. In senior classes some project work may be undertaken at weekends
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given "homework off " as a treat or as acknowledgment of some special occasion
- Homework is communicated to parents in the child's homework journal for Senior Infants-Sixth Classes. The Junior Infant teacher sets homework for the week and this is given on a homework sheet in their homework folder.



# Ardrahan National School

## What is the content of homework?

- Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.
- This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work
- Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be "learned by heart", drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work started in class
- Children often feel that reading and "learning by heart" is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring that this work is done well.
- From time to time and on special occasions (Active Schools Week etc), children may be given active homework and may record their activity and upload it to Google Classroom.
- Children may be asked to upload certain tasks such as reading/presentations to Google Classroom/Seesaw for correction.

## How much homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent doing homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are allotted times that teachers are to expect their pupils **on average** to spend doing homework:

Junior Infants	0 - 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 1 hour
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

Homework is given from Monday to Thursday. Normally there is no homework at weekends or on a school day just before a public holiday. However, children in middle and senior classes may sometimes be required to work independently on projects at weekends. Reading homework may be given at the weekend at the teacher's discretion where it is deemed



# Ardrahan National School

necessary. As part of our Wellbeing Strategy, children are given no homework on the last Wednesday of every month and are encouraged to spend quality time with family or engage in some physical activity instead.

## **How much help should parents give?**

Family situations, each one unique, undoubtedly influence a child's approach to homework and learning. Parents can help children develop good working habits. Please show your child that homework is an important priority and you value its worth by offering the following kinds of support.

- Help your child choose an appropriate study location - a quiet place, a desk or table for written work or a comfortable chair for reading
- Ask your child to describe the assignment before beginning and later show you the completed work or summarise what he or she has learned.
- Children should do written homework themselves and parents should only help when the child has difficulty
- If a child has difficulty with homework, parents should help the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation or examples, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. In this case, the parent should write a note to the teacher/send message on Aladdin explaining the problem
- Shared reading is not homework in the regular sense and it is simply meant to be an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability.

## **How often should parents monitor homework?**

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework.
- While our primary mode of communication between parents and teachers is Aladdin, messages regarding homework may also be written in your child's journal.
- Please check that your child records their homework neatly on the correct page and ticks each item of homework when completed

## **How often do teachers monitor homework?**

- All homework given to children is checked.
- Teachers check homework on a daily basis.



# Ardrahan National School

- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day
- Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by children themselves, but always under the direction and supervision of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

## **Incomplete Homework**

- Children who do not complete homework/submit homework of an unsatisfactory standard may be asked to complete unfinished work at break time. Extra work may also be allocated.
- Privileges may be withdrawn at the discretion of the teacher.
- When a child persistently fails to do his/her homework, parents will be requested to meet with the teacher to discuss same.

## **When should parents communicate with the teachers about homework?**

- When your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances
- When your child cannot do homework because she/he cannot understand some aspect
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than the recommended amount of time.

## **When should homework be done?**

- Each family situation is different - both parents working, child minders, etc. Ideally, homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some child need a break before starting homework
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school

## **Remember**

Homework is not designed to be a stressful ordeal for children or parents. Its purpose is to consolidate learning done earlier at school. Please contact the class teacher if homework completion is an issue on a regular basis.

Ratified by the Board of Management:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_