

# Homework Policy

Aughadreena National School aims to foster positive learning links between the home and school environments. In order to do this, homework guidelines have been established that are envisaged to be purposeful and positive in the development of these.

## Homework

Homework is an important aspect of a child's education. It consists mostly of revision and reinforces what the child has learnt during the day. Therefore, if a child is absent from school, homework will not be sent home. Parents should always ensure that homework is supervised and adequately completed. Journals are used by each class to record homework. *These must be signed by parents daily.*

Parents and teachers should use journals to correspond with each other relating to school. If for some reason a child is unable to complete homework, parents are asked to send a note of explanation. If a child otherwise omits any aspect of homework s/he will be required to complete it during breaktime or at home.

## The Objectives of Homework

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills
- To develop a work ethic outside of the classroom.
- To encourage the child to work on his/her own initiative and develop resourcefulness, self-esteem, responsibility and pride in achievement.

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, it provides an opportunity to revise and practice work that has already been done in the classroom. On occasion, homework given is designed to challenge the child's ability and provide opportunities for creativity. Research, by nature, cannot be specifically prepared at school though guidelines will be given by the class teacher (e.g. for project-work).

## When is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. However, on occasion a teacher may set homework on Friday if previous homework was not completed to a suitable standard for that child/class or if some additional work is to be completed in a subject area or project. It is advised that recreational reading be completed over the weekend.
- On occasion, at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as acknowledgment of a special occasion.

- Extra homework may be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not made a suitable effort to complete set homework, has only completed parts of set tasks or presented untidy work.

### **What is the content of homework?**

- Homework may consist of an individual task or a combination of tasks between reading tasks, learning tasks, written tasks and digital recordings on Seesaw. This may vary from day to day.
- Homework consists mainly of reading, spellings, tables, written work, information to be learned 'off 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. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

### **How much time should be spent on homework?**

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Individual children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. It is important to remember that it is the *quality* and not the quantity of homework that matters. The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	Up to 10 minutes
Senior Infants	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 1	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 35 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 45 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 50 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 75 minutes
Rang 6	Up to 90 minutes

Children are expected to do their homework to the *best of their individual ability*; no more and no less.

### **How can parents help with homework?**

- By providing the child with a suitable time and place in which s/he can complete homework.
- By preventing unnecessary interruptions or distractions such as the radio, television, mobile phones, Ipads or computer games, ensuring a work area that provides for quality concentration and application to task.
- By displaying an interest in the child's work. Listening to reading, discussing topics covered in school, observing written work.
- By providing as much assistance as possible in clarifying some aspect of the work for your child without actually completing the task *for* him/her.
- By encouraging neatness and tidiness.
- By praising the quality of homework.

## **The Homework Journal**

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening. Please check that your child ticks/highlights each item of homework when completed. Check that all homework tasks (not just written work) have been completed.
- On occasion your child may be requested to record in the homework journal the amount of time taken to complete the work. This gives the teacher an indication of any difficulties your child may be having.
- Ideally, all written messages to your child's teacher should be put in the homework journal (except in the case of absence when a parent is required to complete an absence form). It is a valuable means of communication between parents and teachers.

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

As homework is mostly revision, children are encouraged to check the homework before they leave school. If they are unsure about any aspect of homework set, they should immediately advise the teacher who will provide clarity or assistance as required. It is only in exceptional circumstances that a child should be exempt from homework. Please put a note in your child's journal if any of the following occur:

- If your child cannot do homework due to family circumstances.
- If your child cannot understand some aspect/concept of the homework which cannot be resolved at home (All attempts made to complete the work must be available to the teacher).
- If the time being spent at homework is a lot longer than the recommended amount of time. Children should not be encouraged to sit for overly long period if unable to complete homework as it leads to boredom, frustration and poor self-esteem.
- Should your child experience ongoing difficulties with his/her homework, please contact the class teacher

## **Homework during periods of absences**

- Homework is primarily based on developing and reinforcing the class lessons completed at school.
- Therefore, if a child is absent from school, homework will not be sent home. However, in the event of a prolonged absence, the teacher may provide schoolwork.
- Catch-up may be completed at the discretion of, and under the guidance of parents.
- Children attending the Learning Support teacher will on occasion be given additional homework based on their specific learning needs as deemed suitable by the Learning Support teacher. She will liaise with the class teacher regarding consistency, content and time allocation to homework.

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

Each family situation is different. However, ideally homework should be done early in the evening before your child gets tired, definitely before 7 o'clock. While some children prefer a break before starting homework, if possible it should be completed before recreational distractions such as television. If parents are going out for the evening, homework should be

completed where possible before they go out. Homework should not be left until morning time before school.

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

- Where homework is set weekly – teachers will check homework on its return at the end of the week.
- Where homework is set daily, ideally teachers aim to check homework daily. However, it is not always possible to check each child's homework every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework may be self-assessed and evaluated by the children under the direction of the teacher.

This policy will be reviewed as necessary. This policy was ratified by the B.o.M.