

Ardfinnan National School, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.



Homework Policy

1. Why give homework?

- To re-inforce what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a link between teacher and parent/guardian.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic.
- Homework is meant to be achievable by a child, i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done. It is normally prepared by the teacher in class. However, sometimes with senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.
- Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their individual ability – no more, no less.

2. How often is homework given?

- Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:
 - (i) If homework has been neglected during the week.
 - (ii) In senior classes some project work is undertaken at weekends.
- Sometimes at the discretion of the class teacher or the principal, children are given 'homework off' as a treat or as acknowledgement of some special occasion.
- Please note extra homework may sometimes be given during the week or at the weekend if a child has not done homework, made a suitable effort or presented untidy work.

3. 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/guardians can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

4. How much (time) homework?

Homework should be completed in a reasonable time. Long drawn out homework sessions can be avoided by putting a time limit on the child. Reading time is excluded from these periods, since reading is an activity which transcends homework.

When parents/guardians or children are checking time spent on homework it is

7. How often do teachers monitor homework?

- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However, with large class numbers it is not always possible to check each child's homework journal every day.
- As children get older and learn to work independently, some items of homework are checked less often e.g. every second day or once a week.
- Some items of homework (and class-work) may be checked by children themselves under the direction of the teacher.
This can be a useful part of the learning process for children.

8. When should parents/guardians 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.

9. When should homework be done?

- Each family situation is different – parents/guardians working, child/ren with child minders etc. Ideally homework should be done before any television is watched soon after school while your child is still fresh, however, some children need a break before starting homework.
- Preferably it should be done in one time block.
- Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

Tony Kenny 1-5-12