

## **An Grianán N.S Homework Policy**

### **1) Why give homework?**

- To re-enforce and revise what the child learns during the day.
- To provide a communication link between teacher and parent.
- To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic and sense of self-discipline.
- It allows the parents to see how a child is progressing.
- It helps the child become an independent learner.
- To complete tasks begun in school.
- 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.

**Note:** 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 at the Teacher's discretion. (Generally weekend homework is only given to the senior classes i.e. from 3<sup>rd</sup> class up).
- 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 sometime 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, learning, conversing/discussing 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 holding discussions with their child on certain homework topics. It is important that parents ensure this work is done.

#### **4) How much time should children spend on 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.

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

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- Preventing interruptions or distractions, like T.V or other children.
- Allowing them to do their written homework themselves and only helping when the child has difficulty.
- Helping the child to overcome the difficulty with further explanation by prompting or guiding them towards completing the set task, but not by actually doing the homework for the child. If you have given a reasonable amount of help and they still cannot complete the task, you can help best by writing a note to the teacher informing him/her of the child's difficulty.

#### **6) How often should home be monitored?**

- Parents should check and sign a child's homework journal every evening.
- 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.

#### **7) 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 he/she cannot understand some aspect.
- If the time being spent at homework is often longer than can be reasonably expected.

#### **8) 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 children need a break before starting homework. Homework should never be left until morning time before school.

### **Link with Literacy**

We recommend that you spend 10 mins per day in a reading activity with your child.

### **Suggested age appropriate reading activities:**

Infants: Story telling, nursery rhymes, looking at and talking about books. Reading books and enjoying books together-bed time story.

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Class: Paired reading (see handout on paired reading)

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Classes: Continue with paired reading if children need support. When children are reading independently get them to read aloud to you. This is great for improving their confidence, intonation, expression and clarity.

Remember- we are never too old for a story- continue reading to your child as long as they enjoy it – it is very good for their language development, comprehension and imagination.

This policy was reviewed in June 2015 and ratified by the Board of Management in \_\_\_\_\_.

Next review date is \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Rev. Chairman B.O.M.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Principal

## **Changes made to this policy**

### **Addition of other reasons for giving homework:**

- **Allows parents to see progress of child**
- **Helps child towards independent learning**
- **To complete tasks already done in school.**

### **Content of homework**

**“Time devoted to reading and learning” now becomes “time devoted to reading, learning, conversing/discussing”.. this is to reflect our promotion of oral language work throughout the school.**

**Addition of other references to “Holding discussion” and stressing the importance of ensuring this work being done.**

### **How much help**

**The parents should help by prompting and guiding them (the children) towards completing the task.**

**Also**

**If you have given a reasonable amount of help and they still cannot complete the task, you can help best by writing a note to the teacher informing him/her of the child’s difficulty.**