

HOMWORK POLICY: Ardtornish Primary School

1. INTRODUCTION

Homework tasks are set for student to provide them with added structured learning opportunities outside the classroom in the belief that the added time spent on learning tasks will lead to increased and improved student learning outcomes.

Setting homework for all children can prove problematic because while many parents welcome their children undertaking extra learning tasks at home, others may view the practice as unnecessary or an intrusion into their child's home life.

DECD acknowledge that some parents may not wish for it to be undertaken.

Regulation Part 4 Division 2 164.

- (1) Teachers may require that homework appropriate to the age and ability of a child shall be done by a child attending a DECD school.
- (2) Every teacher shall give sympathetic consideration to any objection from a parent regarding the amount of homework.

At Ardtornish we will set homework for students while also acknowledging and respecting each parent's right to determine the extent to which their children undertake it.

Parents who decide their child will not undertake certain tasks need to clearly communicate this decision to the teacher e.g. through a note or message in the child's diary or communication book.

2. OUTCOMES

Homework will enable:

- Students to develop organisational and study skills as a result of managing the completion of learning tasks
- Parents to monitor their child's learning and if they wish provide additional learning support
- Student learning outcomes to be further enhanced by spending additional time on specific learning tasks they need to master
- Students to undertake specific online tasks to support their learning in a range of subjects

- Setting tasks that reflect an awareness of:
 - the varying resources available to children in the home setting
 - the amount of time parents can give to supporting their child's learning
 - The child's level of access to technology and the internet
- discussing with parents (usually at the beginning of each year) how homework will operate in the class and documenting the shared expectations and procedures to be used.
- Ensuring that if 'online tasks' cannot be undertaken alternate paper based ones are set
- Marking or responding to homework tasks so that students receive feedback about their work and understand its relevance.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Providing their children with the time, space, materials, resources and encouragement necessary for them to successfully complete the set homework tasks.
- monitoring the amount of homework their child undertakes and negotiating with them any tasks they may choose not to complete. These decisions then need to be communicated to the class teacher by a letter or note in the student's diary or communication book.

If homework is not undertaken, and no note of explanation is provided, it will be assumed that the parent is supportive of the tasks being done and so its completion of will be negotiated between the teacher and the student.

- Understanding that a decision to not support their child to undertake homework activities may result in them having differing learning outcomes to their peers, who by undertaking it experience more 'time on task.'

Homework and Behaviour Management

When a student does not complete a given task at school, because they were choosing to behave inappropriately, e.g. being off task, disrupting others etc. the logical consequence may be that they are expected to finish the task in their own time.

Teachers may ask that this "Catch up" work be done at home and returned to school the following day. In these cases the work will not be called homework but "Catch up work" and its completion will be considered non-negotiable. Active parent support is sought and appreciated in these cases.

3. IMPLEMENTATION:

Teachers will be responsible for:

- providing all their students with opportunities to further their learning development by formally setting age appropriate and educationally sound learning tasks for them to undertake in the home setting on a regular basis.
- ensuring that both students and parents are clearly informed about the homework tasks set.

Time Allocation

Year R-2 No set amount however reading each night is encouraged. To be left to the discretion of the teacher and/or needs of individual students.

Year 3	0.5 - 1.0 hours per week
Year 4	1.0 - 1.5 hours per week
Year 5	1.5 - 2.0 hours per week
Year 6	2.0 - 2.5 hours per week
Year 7	2.5 - 3.0 hours per week