

Guardian Angels' NS Homework Policy

1. Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays. There are two exceptions:

- If homework has been neglected during the week
- 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.

2. **Why give homework?**

- To reinforce what the child learns during the day
- To develop a child’s concentration skills and develop a work ethic
- To develop organisational skills e.g. taking down homework correctly and bring home relevant books and materials.
- 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 neatly and to the best of their individual ability.

3. **Content of homework**

- 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.
- The use of IT in project work is encouraged.
- Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

4. **How much homework?**

The following are general guidelines only:

Junior Infants	Phonics
Senior Infants	Reading
Rang 1	Up to 20 minutes
Rang 2	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 3	Up to 30 minutes
Rang 4	Up to 40 minutes
Rang 5	Up to 1 hour
Rang 6	Up to 1 hour

5. Parents

Parents should try to help their children with homework by:

- Providing them with a suitable place and time to do their homework
- To prevent interruptions or distractions, like TV or phones.
- If a child has difficulty with homework, the parent should write a note to the teacher explaining the problem.
- Parents should check and sign the school homework journal every evening.
- The pupil's journal is an important record of the child's homework.

6. 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.
- 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.

Remember

If homework is a stressful experience between parent and child, something is wrong! This leads to poor learning and defeats the whole purpose. Should this happen on a regular basis, please contact the class teacher.