

Homework Policy

Rationale

The promotion of excellence in all aspects of the student's life is an integral part of our 'Mission Statement'. As such our homework policy seeks to guide, enhance and support the efforts of students who seek to realise their full potential. This policy is an integral part of the 'Whole School Plan', which is under the guidance of SDPI (School Development Planning Initiative) and will be subject to annual review.

Definition of homework

Homework given by teachers may take the following format: written, oral, reading, research and revision. It is an integral component of the learning process and is vital for the achievement of personal and academic goals.

The purpose of homework

- Consolidates work done in class.
- Provides an opportunity for students to apply newly acquired skills and knowledge.
- Promotes independent learning.
- Enhances exam readiness.
- Develops good study habits.

The role of parents/Guardians in supporting students

- Parents/Guardians play a pivotal role in helping students to maximise their full potential while working within their own capabilities.
- Parents/Guardians are asked to provide students with a suitable place for study within the home.
- Parents/Guardians are expected to oversee the completion of homework and should provide the class teacher with an explanatory note in the event of incomplete or absent homework.
- The school requests that parents/Guardians inspect the homework journal regularly and sign notes from class teachers.
- Parents/Guardians should communicate with the class teacher if a student is unable to fulfill homework obligations due to family circumstances.
- Parents/Guardians may communicate with the class teacher at parent/teacher meetings regarding homework.
- Parents/Guardians are requested to be supportive of the opportunities provided by the school to promote and enhance independent learning e.g. 'Study Skills Training' and 'After -School Study'.

The role of pupils

- Record all homework in the school journal at the end of each class.
- Complete all homework to the best of their ability within the assigned timeframe.
- Revise material covered in each class as part of homework.
- Present completed homework on time.
- Present a note from a parent/guardian if unable to complete homework for a genuine reason.
- Get the journal signed weekly by parent/guardian.
- Where a student is absent from class due to school related activities he should acquire the assigned homework from another pupil and complete the assigned tasks.

Role of teacher

- Assign appropriate regular homework, learning and written, to each class.
- Time must be granted for homework to be recorded accurately by students in the homework journal within the lesson.
- Assess homework regularly and provide meaningful feedback to students and parents/guardians.
- Inform parents/guardians of students who do not present homework.
- Teachers will keep records of the homework performance of each student and report those in need of attention to Class Tutor/Year Head and/or parents/guardians as appropriate.

Study Skills

- Intensive Study Skills seminars are offered to 3rd and 6th year students delivered by a professional outside agency.
- Supervised evening study is available to 3rd and 6th year pupils first and then offered to other years if spaces are available.
- The school provides a lunchtime homework club for junior students as part of the School Completion Programme.
- The 'Mentor Programme' addresses 'study skills' with the 1st year students; study skills are also part of the SPHE Programme.
- Subject teachers offer guidance in their specific subject area.

The Homework Journal

The *Homework Journal* is an essential resource for every student. It is invaluable to students, teachers and parents/guardians as it contains the following:

- A résumé of schools rules.
- Policies on Discipline, Bullying and Internet use.
- Pages on which to record homework.
- Space where parents may sign to illustrate that they have inspected the journal.
- Space where teachers may communicate with parents/guardians (and vice versa).

Homework journals may be inspected at any time by the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head, Class Tutor or teachers to ensure that homework is being recorded accurately.

Amount of Homework

While it is difficult to stipulate precisely the recommended time students should devote to study, best practice suggests that the amount of time should be spent on homework by students, should, on average, fall into the following ranges:

- 1st years – 1½ hours
- 2nd years – 2 hours
- 3rd years – 3 hours
- T.Y. – [this varies depending on project work or activities]
- 5th year – 3 hours
- 6th year – 4 hours

At no time is it possible for students to complete all their homework/study during school hours. While an occasional period may be at their disposal, this may be devoted to the completion of small segments of homework but should not be regarded as an opportunity to complete it. Alternatively, students may revise material that has been previously covered in class.

Feedback for pupils

Students are entitled to regular feedback regarding the quality of their homework in order to ensure progress. The school will communicate with parents/guardians via ‘written reports’ on student’s progress / results of term tests; however, other regular communication between parents and teachers e.g. SMS texts, emails, parent/teacher meetings or informal discussions, are vital. Such meetings afford the opportunity to identify and address areas requiring specific attention in order to improve student performance.

Sanctions

If a student fails to complete or perform his homework satisfactorily, teachers will note this in their records. In the event of repeated refusal to comply with homework requirements, the teacher will apply the agreed sanctions as outlined within the Code of Behaviour.

Evaluation

This policy is subject to ongoing evaluation and development. This evaluation will be conducted by the Principal and Deputy Principal on an annual basis in consultation with staff and the parent’s council.

Adopted by the Board of Management

Thursday 24th January 2019

