



HOMWORK POLICY

Introduction:

The primary function of all schools is teaching and learning. While significant learning takes place in the classroom, homework also has a vital role in the learning process.

Homework provides the opportunity:

- for students to consolidate work done in class
- to prepare for learning in subsequent lessons
- to encourage students to develop personal responsibility for their own learning.

Successfully developing a sense of responsibility for their own learning empowers students and is vital for their attainment and success in school. It is a life skill and encouraging this sense of responsibility is an important aspect of our school's mission.

Relationship to School's Mission and Aims:

The school aims to encourage and facilitate students in reaching their potential, both personally and academically. Developing the life skill of personal responsibility for learning is an important aspect of this process. The importance of homework being a regular habit cannot be over-emphasised and it should be firmly established from form one upwards. Homework should also be completed carefully to the best of a student's ability.

Rationale of this Policy

- Good homework practice is the foundation of teaching and learning
- This policy will help students consolidate their classroom learning or prepare for it
- Homework/study enables the student to take responsibility for their own learning
- Homework/study facilitates evaluation of teaching and learning for students and teachers
- This policy will improve student attainment
- With improved learning outcomes students will enjoy school more

Goals/Objectives:

- To foster a regular habit of daily homework
- To foster an organised and consistent approach to the completion of homework and study.
- To encourage students to create time for personal study
- To encourage students to take responsibility for their work, both its completion and the standard of the work. Homework should be completed to the best of a student's ability
- To encourage parents/guardians to play an active role in monitoring homework and its completion on a daily basis in Junior Cycle and weekly for senior cycle students

Homework Expectations:

Students in Junior Cycle should spend 20 to 25 minutes *per subject* on homework. The following is the recommended time students should spend on *all* their homework (5 nights per week in junior cycle and 6 nights a week in senior cycle):

Form 1:	On average 1 – 1 ½ hours per night.
Form 2:	On average 1 ½ - 2 hours per night
Form 3:	On average 2 - 2 ½ hours per night.

Students in Senior Cycle should spend 30 to 45 minutes *per subject* on homework and study for on average 2½ - 3½ hours per night, six days a week. This amounts to around 15 - 21 hours homework per week and would be normal for students in Forms 5 and 6.

Implementation of the Homework Policy

Learning is the most important activity in our school. Homework is a necessary support for learning. It is the student's responsibility to organise their books and materials, do the set homework and submit it to the relevant teacher on-time.

If you do not submit the set homework to your teacher or if the work submitted is of an unsatisfactory standard, the following procedures will apply:

- If your homework is not done or not completed satisfactorily, you may be required to complete/redo the work either during your lunch break or for the following day. This also applies to work not 'learnt'.

- If you have been out sick and have returned to school within the last 24 hours, you will be allowed the extra night to catch-up and complete the homework. If you have been back in school for more than 24 hours since your illness, you are expected to have asked 'what homework was set?' for the classes missed and to have completed it. If you are unable to complete the work you should bring a note from a parent indicating this.
- The teacher will put a 'no homework received' note in your journal for each homework not submitted on-time or to an adequate standard.
- If you miss any 3 home works (all subjects) in a single term you will automatically be placed on 'Homework Report' by your form teacher. Your form teacher will also send a text to your parents informing them you are on 'Homework Report'.
- As soon as you complete a full week with all homework assignments submitted on time you will be taken off 'Homework Report'.

In any event, you will only remain on 'Homework Report' for a maximum of 2 weeks in any term.

After two weeks on homework report the Principal will send a letter to parents informing and reminding students and parents /guardians of the importance of homework and their responsibilities.

If there are more homework assignments missed a sanction will be applied or a privilege removed. Eventually both student and parent / guardian will be brought into a meeting with the Form teacher and Principal.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Teachers' Role:

- To ensure sufficient time is given to the allocation of homework in class
- To ensure the homework is relevant to the work of the class; it may be revision or preparation
- To write the homework on the board, preferably at the start of the class.
- To ensure that students record the homework in their journals
- To emphasise the importance of homework and the student's role in ensuring all set work is completed
- To attempt to set a variety of homework types e.g. written, learning, research etc.
- To ensure students understand what is expected of them in completing the set work

- To correct homework promptly and give feedback
- To implement this policy in a way which emphasise homework as a positive thing
- To encourage a high standard of work by use of praise, commendations etc.
- To carefully monitor homework and record both completion and non-completion of work in their staff journals. A note to parents will be put in the student's journal for **every** homework not submitted or not completed to an adequate standard.

Students' Role:

- To have journals in every class
- To record homework carefully in journals
- To have the necessary equipment in every class
- To find out what work has been missed when they are absent and catch-up this work in their own time
- To complete the homework on the night it is set, if at all possible.
- To spend time at home on their studies whether or not homework has been set. This is an opportunity to consolidate work taught previously.
- To ensure parents sign their journal and view notes from teachers every day (Junior Cycle) or weekly (Senior Cycle).

If a student has been absent the onus is on the student to ask the teacher or fellow students "what work has been set?" and to complete it on time or as soon as the relevant teacher indicates.

Parents' Role:

- To look at and sign the journal regularly; every night in Junior Cycle and every week in Senior Cycle
- To ensure their child understands the importance of doing regular nightly homework. Students must be helped to understand that success is the result of regular hard work
- To take an interest in the *quality* as well as *quantity* of homework being done
- To take appropriate action if informed by the school that homework is not being done
- To inform the class teacher of any reasons why a student was unable to complete homework; the journal may be used for this purpose
- To inform the form teacher if the student is experiencing difficulties with homework
- To inform the form teacher if the student appears to be doing little homework
- To encourage their child to attend Supervised Evening Study – especially in forms 3 and 6

Meeting homework deadlines may not be always easy for students. They should not normally be excused homework, but may need help with time-management strategies.

Form Teachers' Role:

- Explain the policy to students and reinforce when necessary
- Emphasise to students the importance of completing homework and completing it to the best of their ability
- Emphasise to students the importance of 'learning' homework, research and personal study
- Monitor the journals and record the number of homework notes from class teachers
- Check students are writing set homework in their journal
- Place students on 'Homework Report' as required and text parents to inform them
- Play their role in implementing the homework policy as described above

Guidance Counsellor and SEN Teachers' Role:

- Provide support and guidance especially to students with special needs
- Provide advice on 'study skills' especially prior to examinations.
- Provide support and guidance to students who have difficulties with homework.

Criteria for Success:

- Quality of homework improves
- Attainment improves
- Students are more organised and journals are neater
- There is greater completion of homework
- Teachers are more satisfied with the standard of homework
- Parents/guardians are satisfied that the policy is being implemented

Scope of this Policy:

This policy is for the benefit of all students, parents and teachers.

This policy will be implemented in the academic year **2019-2020** and reviewed regularly as per the school's policy review schedule.