

Homework Policy

Homework is any learning activity, students are asked to complete outside of normal class time, generally as preparation, consolidation or follow up to work that students are doing in school. It can be done by students working on their own, at home with the support of parents or after school with the support of teachers e.g. homework club.

Purpose

- To form a link between home and school and to offer parents an opportunity to support and reinforce learning.
- To enable students to review knowledge and skills taught in class and to develop and pursue interests.
- To enable students to cover more subject content than is possible in class time alone.
- To provide time for essential learning activities that does not require the presence of the teacher.
- To encourage independent study skills and reflection.
- To allow time for researching information, redrafting work or working with others e.g. TY, LCVP etc.
- To allow individuals to work at a pace that is appropriate to their abilities.

Types of Homework may include

- Written assignment
- Learning assignment
- Oral/Aural assignment
- Reading assignment
- Research assignment
- Creative assignment
- Revision work
- Practical assignment
- Independent learning
- Active learning

Duration of Homework / Study

The following table outlines suggested guidelines for each year group. It is important to remember that taking breaks improves concentration levels while at study and it is beneficial that a short break of 5/10 minutes be taken after each 45/50 minutes spent at study

YEAR	HOURS PER DAY ON HOMEWORK AND REVISION
1st Year	Minimum 1 to 2
2nd Year	Minimum 1.5 to 2
3rd Year	Minimum 2 to 3
4th Year	Will vary depending on amount of project work
5th Year	Minimum 3
6th Year	Minimum 3 +

Responsibilities of Students

- Record homework
- Bring relevant books and material home and to class
- Complete homework to the best of their ability
- Present homework in class when required
- Note corrections and redo work where requested
- Get journal signed weekly (Junior Cycle only)

- Take responsibility for their own learning
- Ensure homework is the product of their own work
- Students who have been absent through any cause are expected to make a significant effort to find out what class work and homework has been assigned and to complete it to the best of their ability within an agreed timeframe
- Students are advised not to take part in part-time work during school term

Responsibilities of Teachers

- Regularly assign and explain homework
- Give homework as an integral part of the class/syllabus
- Ensure that homework reflects the aims of the syllabus and the level at which the student is capable of performing.
- Monitor completion of homework and provide feedback to students in accordance with good assessment for learning practices using examination marking schemes, peer assessment and self assessment strategies etc. Teachers are not expected to mark every piece of work. This is especially true of senior classes where students are expected to take responsibility for themselves and their study.
- Keep records of students who fail to do assigned homework
- Inform parents if students repeatedly fail to do assigned homework. This can be done using the homework journal, through VsWare or at the Parent/Teacher meeting.

Responsibilities of Parents

Homework provides a link between school and home and also gives parents the opportunity to reinforce the importance of learning. It provides parents with a means of becoming involved in the student's learning. Parents play a crucial role in shaping good attitudes and habits in relation to their daughter's homework. We ask that as parents/guardians you spend time monitoring your daughter's journal and ensuring that homework is being recorded and then completed – according to the needs of the student. We ask that you encourage your daughter to persevere with difficult assignments; valuable learning comes from attempting as well as completing work. Experience has shown that parental involvement with homework is invaluable for the student. Encouraging a positive attitude is most beneficial and parents can play a major role in this.

- Support School Policy
- Monitor completion of homework / project work
- Sign student journal weekly (Junior Cycle only)
- Provide suitable setting for homework
- Allow student to work independently – use opportunities to help students while refraining from “over helping”
- Encourage students to organise their own homework
- Communicate with teachers via school journal / letter etc when problems arise

Expectations of Students with additional needs

As an inclusive school we try to meet the needs of all our students. Homework activities may be modified in these ways:

- Assignment of Oral/Aural/Visual activities
- Differential homework
- Reduction in amount of homework
- Same homework / expect less
- Consolidate and reinforcement of specific skills (link that to resource teacher)
- Collaboration with learning support teacher ensuring tasks are manageable
- All student's able to complete some of homework
- Guiding gifted students in learning research

Parents will be consulted regarding their daughters needs.

Homework Supports Provided by the School

- Liaising with learning support teachers
- Homework Club / Supervised Study (during and after school)
- Resource and Learning support
- Pastoral care (one to one) / year head
- Study skills seminar
- Guidance counsellor
- National Educational Psychological Service
- Parental support (journal)

Sanctions for non-completion of Homework as set out in the Discipline Policy may include:

- Speak to student – isolate areas of difficulties
- Note in journal (Junior Cert)
- Re-issuing homework
- Referral to year head through VsWare
- Penalty Sheet
- Letter to Parent

Positive Recognition of Homework may include:

- Affirmation from teacher
- Note in journal or VsWare
- Contact with parents
- Commendation by year head at assembly
- Individual subject teacher award systems