



Homework Policy

INTRODUCTION:

As part of the learning process homework has wide educational value. It reinforces work done and builds students' self-esteem. Homework has the potential to strengthen the partnership in learning between parent/guardians and school staff.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK:

Homework:

- is an essential part of learning
- allows for practising and consolidating work done in class
- trains students to plan and organise their time
- establishes a habit of study and self-discipline that will be a lifelong skill
- enables students to identify and use information resources
- challenges able students
- builds student self esteem
- strengthens the links between home and school

AMOUNTS AND TYPES OF HOMEWORK:

Amounts:

The amount of homework that students are given and the time it will require, vary depending on age, ability and year group. Students should also be encouraged to leave time for leisure and physical activities outside of school. As students move into Senior Cycle homework demands will increase. The following are suggested guidelines as to the amount of time that a student should spend on homework per day.

First Years	One Hour
Second Years	One and a Half Hours
Third Years	Two and a Half Hours
Fifth Years	Two Hours
Sixth Years	Two and a Half Hours, as well as Research and Project work

Time should also be given to homework/study at weekends especially in third and sixth year.

Expectations:

Each of the partners in education has an important role in supporting the child's learning:

Parents and guardians can help by:

- taking an active interest in homework
- making sure that time is set aside for homework
- encouraging students to do their best and complete the work
- making a quiet place available, where possible, for homework to be done
- supporting teachers by signing the journal or the homework when asked
- communicating with teachers any concerns about homework
- alerting the school to any change in circumstances which should be considered when setting homework.

Teachers can help by

- explaining to students the benefits of homework
- ensuring that students and parents are aware of the schools' homework policy
- setting a suitable amount of relevant homework
- providing homework that is related to classwork / revision
- giving students sufficient time to complete homework, considering other activities and homework set by other teachers
- marking homework promptly and appropriately
- keeping homework records and giving feedback to students
- alerting parents and caregivers to any developing problems concerning their child's homework

Students can help by:

- being aware of the importance of homework
- being aware of the school's homework policy
- being aware that homework is an essential part of the learning process
- completing homework within the given time frame
- ensuring the homework is of a high standard
- taking responsibility for their own work and seeking assistance when difficulties arise
- organising their time so that sufficient time is set aside to complete quality work/assignments
- using the Journal to keep records and make notes about homework
- using study skill seminars to full advantage by following the guidelines given
- availing of supervised study / extra classes in exam years.

Sanctions

Homework assignments and deadlines are set by subject teachers and must be adhered to.

Lack of co-operation by students may be dealt with in one or more of the following ways:

1. Verbal reprimand, comment on VsWare or note to parents in student journal. Discussion with Class Teacher and Junior Head of Discipline (1st/2nd/3rd years only) 3 NH's = 1 DB.
2. Standard letter to parents.
3. An individual teacher may detain the student during break/lunchtime until the work is completed.
4. Discussion with parents by phone / by letter / by visit to school.
5. Use of the College's detention system for persistent failure to do / attempt homework.
6. Refusal of progression to the following year. Students may be kept back.