

HOMWORK POLICY



Rationale

Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. The school will make facilities available for this.

Homework contributes to raising standards of attainment and is an important part of learning. It enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Pupils benefit from homework by:-

- Progressing to become independent learners
- Developing study skills
- Managing and planning their own time
- Reflecting upon and revising what they have learned
- Becoming more active in their own learning
- Consolidating work done in class
- Being challenged to extend their knowledge, comprehension and skills through extension work

Parents/Carers benefit by:-

- Having an opportunity to share in a child's learning experiences
- Gaining an insight into the learning taking place in class
- Becoming part of a partnership between home and school

Roles and Responsibilities

The school, parents / carers and pupils all have roles and responsibilities in making the policy work.

The School

Communicate homework tasks verbally during lessons and using *Show My Homework*.

Give feedback to pupils on completed homework.

Develop pupils' study skills.

Inform parents / carers of any concerns about homework.

Provide a designated area/time to support the completion of homework.

Teachers may also recommend online resources/support.

Pupils

Check *Show My Homework* for any tasks due.

See your teacher if you are unable to access homework on *Show My Homework*.

See your teacher if there are issues with aspects of the homework task prior to the due date.

Complete all homework given on time.

Complete all homework to as high a standard as possible.

Parents / Carers

Parents / carers can support their child's learning through homework.

Encourage your child to check *Show My Homework* for tasks due to be completed.

Encourage your child to complete homework tasks.

Discuss homework deadlines with your child.

Contact Pupil Support Staff with any concerns about homework.

Show an interest. Be positive and encouraging. Even if you have little knowledge of the subject you can help.

Ask questions about homework tasks.

Amount of Homework (Broad General Education S1-S3)

The amount of homework given will vary from subject to subject over the course of the session and will depend on the year group. It should be expected that the amount of homework will increase from S1 to S3 and that some subjects are likely to issue homework more frequently than others.

Amount of Homework (Senior Phase S4-S6)

The amount of homework given will vary from subject to subject over the course of the session and will depend on the level being studied. It should be expected that the amount of homework will increase from National 4 to National 5 to Higher and Advanced Higher level. We expect and encourage pupils to spend equal amounts of time between their subjects at any one particular level.

Some homework in the Senior Phase will be of a formal nature where pupils will be given a reasonable amount of time (often one week) to complete. Informal homework will also be set regularly in various subjects, where pupils are expected to complete a task started in class for the next day. Informal homework should require much less time to complete.

It should be noted that the reviewing and studying of coursework will form part of a pupil's homework time, particularly at National 5, Higher and Advanced Higher levels. During preliminary examinations and other formal assessments, the amount of homework issued is likely to be reduced to allow more time for independent study and revision.

Homework Tasks

Homework will not always be formal written tasks. Pupils might be encouraged to reflect on their learning or give a verbal response to a question asked in class.

The following list is an indication of the variety of tasks that might be set:-

- Written tasks
- Electronically submitted tasks
- Completing worksheets
- Revising/Studying
- Investigations
- Project work
- Research
- Interviews
- Reading
- Drawing
- Designing
- Drafting or re-drafting
- Simple experiments
- Learning vocabulary

Feedback

Once homework is completed feedback should be given. This can be done in various ways to allow pupils to understand what they have done well and how they can improve:

- The teacher collects homework and returns it during a subsequent lesson
- The teacher provides guidance to allow pupils to mark their own work
- The teacher provides guidance to allow pupils to mark a peer's work

Feedback from homework may be in the form of marks, written/verbal comments or a combination of these. The purpose of feedback is to allow pupils to reflect on their learning and act upon the feedback given. Sometimes teachers may award merits for homework of a high standard or homework that has shown improvement over time.

Non-Completion of Homework

If a pupil is unable to complete a homework task then an explanatory note from a parent/carer would be appreciated. If a pupil is struggling to complete a task they should ask for help from their class teacher in advance of the due date. Where pupils do not complete homework tasks there are various steps that may be taken to remedy this and/or inform parents/carers.

The class teacher may:

- Discuss homework tasks with the pupil and arrange for it to be returned at a later date
- Put a comment or sticker in the pupil's jotter to be signed by a parent/carer
- Contact the relevant subject Principal Teacher
- Issue a homework demerit where all other homework supports have been exhausted

The Principal Teacher may:

- Speak to the pupil and arrange for the homework to be completed at a later date
- Send a text message to inform parents of non-completion of homework
- Contact the relevant Principal Teacher of Pupil Support
- Contact parents/carers by telephone/letter

(We hope you've found this homework policy useful. If you would like to make any suggestions for improving the Homework Policy please contact Mr G. Nolan, Depute Headteacher.)