

A Policy Document on Homework

*St. Mary's Secondary School,
Newport,
Co. Tipperary.*

2014-2015

Code of Behaviour Guidelines

The guiding principles that underline this policy are in tandem with our Code of Behaviour. They are as follows;

To build positive relationships of mutual respect and mutual support amongst students, staff and parents/guardians

To maintain a safe classroom environment for teachers and students that is conducive to real learning taking place and to promote a positive working environment for all our staff and students

To create a climate that encourages and reinforces good behaviour

To make clear to all students that we have high expectations of behaviour here at St. Mary's

To encourage students to take personal responsibility for their learning and behaviour

To help our young people to grow and mature into responsible, participating citizens

To ensure that our school's high expectations for the behaviour of all members of the school community are transparent and understood

To promote equality for all members of our school community and to respect and uphold at all times the principle of fairness

To protect the welfare of **all** of our students by adhering to our school ethos and the CEIST vision of a compassionate and just society inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ

Policy Aims and Objectives

To develop a coherent homework policy for our school that is transparent and helpful for students, staff and parents/guardians

To reinforce the importance of homework completion as an integral part of the learning process

To outline again the value of close communication between parents and the school with homework forming a crucial part of that link

To consolidate the role of homework completion in aspiring to the highest possible academic standards

Introduction

Our principal aim here in St. Mary's is to foster a positive and safe learning environment for all who come here. Here in St. Mary's, we are fully committed to ensuring that the school days of our students are the best days of their lives. We firmly believe that each and every student who attends our school is special in their own unique way. The safety, dignity and welfare of each student here is of primary concern to us. We celebrate student achievement and encourage students to pursue their goals with vigour and determination. Students are expected to respect the staff who work here and also their fellow students.

The aim of this policy document is to outline the importance of homework in our school and how it has a crucial role to play, both as a link between school and home and also to consolidate the learning that has taken place during the school day. At St. Mary's we actively encourage students to aim for the highest academic standards and homework completion has a significant part to play in the realisation of those goals.

Definition

Homework is any work/activity planned, assigned or approved by the teacher which is to be carried out by the student within a given time framework. In homework allocation, learning/memorisation work is considered as important as set written activities. This school strives to ensure that homework is fair and consistent for the student and realistic for the teacher. All homework should be recorded in the student's school journal when assigned. Homework should be carried out by the student to the best of their ability. It is expected that parents co-operate with the school in its goal to help the student to achieve their full potential. Successful homework completion involves the commitment of the teacher, student and parents/guardians.

Aims

The aim of homework is to consolidate and reinforce what has been taught during the school day. Homework also provides a crucial link between school and home. The goals of homework can be varied and wide ranging. Homework can;

- Reinforce what the student has learned in class
- Provide an opportunity to practice skills
- Challenge students ability, imagination and motivation
- Provide opportunities for creativity
- Develop concentration skills
- Improve organisational skills
- Teach responsibility

Homework content

Homework tasks can consist of the following;

- Written assignments
- Oral work
- Deduction
- Analysis
- Interpretation
- Creation and design
- Research
- Presentation of information

This list is not exhaustive

A balance between written work, study and some memorisation work is desirable at all times.

Suggested time spent daily on homework completion

- 1st Year - 1.5 hours
- 2nd Year - 2 hours
- 3rd Year - 2—3 hours

5th Year - 3 hours

6th Year - 3 hours

4th Year - Time allocation to be dictated by the nature of the work involved

Role of Teacher

- * As a general rule, homework is assigned by the teacher each day that the teacher teaches the student for their subject
- * Ideally, homework is checked on a daily basis or as decided by the teacher
- * Some items of homework will be checked and corrected by the students themselves under the guidance of the teacher as part of our A.F.L. initiative
- * Students and teachers may use correction of assignments to develop better study skills and better answering skills
- * Correction of assignments should encourage better performance from students
- * Students are expected to complete set homework tasks on time
- * Failure to submit assignments on time will be sanctioned. The sanction will be decided by the teacher
- * Teachers will use homework journal to communicate with parents on issues arising with regard to homework
- * The class teacher shall inspect school journals

The teachers in this school feel that good homework practice enhances the students' chances of academic success as well as facilitating whole class progress. Teachers expect that parents/guardians will make every effort to ensure that their child does complete their homework on time and to the best of their ability.

Role of the student

- * It is the duty of each student to complete their homework to the best of their ability
- * It is the duty of each student to complete their homework on time
- * Each student must record homework correctly into their homework journal
- * Each student should have their journal signed once a week by their parents/

guardians

- * If a student fails to complete a piece of homework, a note of explanation should be supplied by the parent/guardian
- * Students should make every effort to catch up on school work missed out on due to absence
- * Students who fail to complete homework will be faced with sanctions

Role of parents/guardians

Parents/guardians can support students in completion of homework by;

- * Providing a suitable learning environment for the student
- * By trying in as far as is possible to minimise distractions like t.v., music and noise etc.
- * Regularly checking homework journal and overseeing that homework recorded in journal is completed
- * Inform the school/teacher if student is having difficulty completing homework
- * Provide support, praise and encouragement
- * To try to prevent and discourage the avoidance of homework by the student
- * To try to establish early on a clear pattern and routine to be followed for successful homework completion
- * To check and sign homework journal on a weekly basis

The roles of teacher, parents/guardians and student are very much interconnected and interdependent for successful homework completion to be achieved.

3. Review and Evaluation

A full review should occur every three years of this homework policy.

Signed: _____
Chairperson B.O.M.

Date: _____

PAGE

PAGE 2