

Homework Policy

Coláiste
Cholmcille



2023

Rationale

Coláiste Cholmcille believes that homework plays a pivotal role in the provision of a successful educational experience. The purpose is to help the student to revisit and reflect on work that has taken place in the classroom and to encourage further reflection, with the aim of enhancing academic achievement and developing skills. Homework is given to supplement what is currently being covered in the class and may involve recollection of data, reading, research or the creation of a piece of work based on guidelines by the teacher.

It is the school's expectation that all assignments should be completed in an ordered and timely fashion. This document is designed to assist students, teachers, parents and other members of the school community in setting out the policy of the school in relation homework.

Catch-Up Weekend

Catch-up weekends are designed to give students a break from the intensity of academic work and to prevent burnout. Practically, this means that every second weekend students do not get homework in a subject on a Friday that is due on a Monday; they have the weekend off to catch up with other work, academic and otherwise. Having worked well in our school over the past four years, it was ratified as an initiative to continue by a teacher, student, and parent survey in December 2021.

Aims of Homework

- To reinforce work carried out in the classroom and aid assimilation.
- To reinforce and develop skills
- To promote literacy and numeracy
- To enhance the educational experience and foster self-directed learning
- To facilitate the use of research and resources not readily accessible in class.
- To foster self-discipline, self-motivation and independence which will be beneficial throughout the student's school career.
- To create a meaningful link between teachers, parents and students, through journal correspondence and involvement in certain projects.
- To develop an understanding of journal entry, reminders, deadlines and time management, therefore increasing organisational skills.
- To provide a method of assessment to enable teachers to diagnose what has been learnt and what still needs to be developed.
- To help teachers assess the strengths and weaknesses of individual students and to indicate where improvements could be made.

- To encourage the interest and active involvement of Parents/Guardians in their child's work and progress.

Responsibilities of the student

- It is the duty of each student to record their homework correctly in their homework journal.
- TY students are expected to record assignments, projects, activities and dates of importance in their journal. They are expected to complete work as directed by their teacher.
- 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.
- It is the duty of each student to catch up on homework if they miss class for any reason.
- It is the duty of each student to complete all homework, whether assigned in class or on Teams. Assignments set in either format should be completed as directed by the teacher.
- Allowing another student to copy your homework or copying another student's homework is considered a serious matter. Copying is counterproductive.
- It is the duty of each student to study for the recommended period of time for their year group.
- All students must provide a note from parent/guardian if homework is not done or is incomplete.
- All students must get their homework journal signed by a parent/guardian on a weekly basis.
- Class Tutors will sign journals on a regular basis.

Role of Parents

- Support school policy
- Provide suitable conditions for homework
- Encourage students to complete homework
- See that the suggested amount of time as outlined in the journal is spent on homework
- Check that homework is complete
- Check student's journal on a regular basis
- Parents should communicate with class teacher when their son / daughter cannot for any reason do the homework– the journal may be used for this or a note written if this is more appropriate.
- Parents may also communicate with the class teacher at parent/teacher meetings regarding homework.

Role of the teacher

- Class teachers will assign appropriate homework to reinforce work done in class.
- Homework and assignments may be assigned in person in class or virtually on Teams.
- Teachers will endeavour to ensure that students are clear on what the homework involves.
- Students are expected to write homework assigned into their journal.
- Homework will generally be checked by teachers, but some items of homework will be checked and corrected by the students themselves under the guidance of the teacher as part of Assessment for Learning.
- Teachers will expect that students will present their homework to a high standard and complete it on time.
- Failure to submit assignments on time will be sanctioned. The sanction will be decided by the teacher.
- Teachers expect that students missing class time due to extra-curricular activities will obtain and complete assigned homework.
- Teachers will use the homework journal to communicate with parents on issues arising with regard to homework.
- Where homework is consistently not completed or is unsatisfactory teachers will communicate with Year Heads through the Referral System and parents will be contacted. Year Heads will impose sanctions as they deem appropriate.
- Teachers who notice students copying homework in their class will bring this to the attention of the relevant teacher.
- Records of homework, grades and comments will be maintained by each teacher.

Non-Compliance

- Teachers examine each case of non-presentation of homework on an individual basis. In the first instance teachers should apply their own sanction and communicate via a note in the student's journal.
- Sanctions for non-presentation of homework will be at the discretion of the individual class teacher and in accordance with school policy.
- Persistent non-presentation of homework will be brought to the attention of the Year Head, in written report form, to allow the situation to be further investigated.
- If the teacher suspects that there is an underlying problem they are advised to contact the relevant Year Head. It may be the case that the student is experiencing difficulty with the subject area or is experiencing other difficulties. Meeting homework deadlines may not always be easy for students. They should not be excused but may need extra help with strategies to manage it.
- A student that has a valid reason for non-compliance of homework must have an explanatory note from a parent/guardian dated and signed in his/her journal. The student must show the note to all relevant teachers.
- Teachers who notice students copying homework in their class should bring this to the attention of the relevant teacher.

- If a pupil has been absent from class on a school activity, or has been ill, it is their responsibility to find out what work has been set and to complete it as soon as possible. Parents are encouraged to monitor such work and ensure this is collected and completed.

Recommended Time

First Years 1:30 – 2:00 Hours

Second Years 2:00 – 2:30 Hours

Third Years 3:00 – 3:30 Hours

TY Homework may be given but will be less structured than in Junior years and will often consist of research for project work

Fifth Years 3:00 – 3:30 Hours

Sixth Years 3:30 – 4:00 Hours

Weekend study and revision is also essential. Teachers and parents need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework or when inspecting homework.

All pupils should spend time at home on their studies whether work has been assigned or not. If no specific homework has been set, then pupils have an obligation to go over material they have recently studied in class.

If the task set for a certain subject exceeds 25 minutes, then students will be given more than one night for completion. This prevents excessive load on any one evening.

School Supports

Supervised study is available on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for 3rd, 5th and 6th years.


This runs from 4.10 -6.10 pm. The Supervised Study programme begins in September and students are advised well in advance of times, rules, cost etc. The aim of the programme is to provide a quiet environment conducive to study where talking or communication of any kind between students is not permitted. Students who do not follow rules will be asked to leave.

A Homework Club has been set up recently to provide support for students who are finding homework challenging for a variety of reasons. This is coordinated by the Home, School, Community, Liaison Officer.

Special Educational Needs

- Any relevant information relating to individual students with Special Educational Needs is given to staff by school management and/or the SEN team.

- The Special needs co-ordinator and Learning support teachers work with individual teachers as required. This ensures tasks are manageable, and individual skill practice can be incorporated without overloading the student.

Signed: 

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: 30/5/23

Date of next review: 2025

Signed: 

(Principal)

Date: 30/5/23