



Scoil Mhuire, Trim

Homework Policy

Homework plays an important role in the education process. It has positive and beneficial effects in reinforcing and facilitating learning, stimulating thinking, and encouraging independent learning. It fosters a relationship between learning at school and at home. It also provides a means for parents/guardians to play an active role in students` learning.

Parents/Guardians can support teachers and students by assisting in the following:

- Promoting good habits and attitudes in relation to homework.
- The provision of a study area for the completion of homework assignments.
- Monitoring the student journal to ensure that homework is being recorded and completed.
- Supporting students through the completion of difficult assignments to ensure that they do the best that they can.
- Ensuring that any part-time jobs held by students do not impinge on the completion of quality homework and revision.

If homework assignments are not attempted/completed and there is no written explanation from parents/guardians, the teacher(s) may put a note in the journal for the attention of parents/guardians. Detention may be given to a student who persists in not doing homework.

Types of Homework include:

- ✓ Written assignments
- ✓ Learning assignments
- ✓ Revision of work completed in class
- ✓ Research for completion of assignments including project work
- ✓ Watching educational programmes on television
- ✓ Listening to language CDs
- ✓ Listening to Podcasts
- ✓ Self-directed study

The list is not exhaustive.

Homework is differentiated so that all students can complete homework assignments to their individual potential. Homework is regarded as an extension of classwork and as preparation for effective work and participation in the each lesson. To ensure good learning students must spend time completing written work, studying material, and revising to the best of their ability.

Suggestions for completing homework assignments to a high standard:

- ✚ Establish a suitable study area and routine.
- ✚ Design your own individual timetable for completion of assignments to work around hobbies and interests.
- ✚ Avoid distractions such as television, phone calls, social media etc.
- ✚ Where possible, complete homework assignments on the night they are given even though some may not be required the following day.
- ✚ Use textbook, notes, or information available from teachers on Teams or One Drive etc. to complete the homework assignments.
- ✚ Take notes, highlight key area while studying to be used later on when revising.
- ✚ Ensure that all written work is neat and tidy.
- ✚ When there is material to be learned off such as grammar, vocabulary, definitions, etc. test oneself until it is known.

Student Journal:

The school journal is used to record homework assignments for each school day. Students enter the subjects as per their timetable for each day, record the homework and then mark it off as the homework is completed. Parents/guardians are asked to sign the student journal on a weekly basis to monitor student work.

Prior to leaving each lesson, students should record the homework assigned and seek clarification on the assignments, if necessary. It is important that students check that they have all relevant materials/resources and copies to complete the homework assignments at home.

It is recommended that each student have a study buddy who will keep them informed of work covered and homework assigned if they are absent from class for any reason.

Recommended time spent on homework assignments:

Students vary in ability levels and speed of completion of work. The following are general guidelines per school night:

1 st Year:	1 - 2 hours
2 nd Year:	1.5 – 2 hours
3 rd Year:	2 – 3 hours
Transition Year:	Varies depending on subject area and project work
5 th Year:	3 hours
6 th Year:	3 + hours

Supervised study (2 hours) is available after school each school day with the exception of days when there are staff meeting and parent-teacher meetings.

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