

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON HOMEWORK

This policy is rooted in the school's fundamental aim to foster in students a spirit of self-reliance, independence, co-operation and responsibility and to provide them with skills for life-long learning.

RATIONALE

Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study skills. It consolidates and supplements the work done in class and promotes independent learning and creativity.

GOALS

1. To ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across each year group.
2. To ensure an equitable distribution of study time for each subject.
3. To reduce pressure on students from homework overload.
4. To promote the development by students of good study habits and effective study skills.
5. To enable students to develop a capacity to organise their own work.
6. To enhance the academic achievements of students.
7. To promote parental involvement and shared responsibility for each student's progress.

POLICY CONTENT

1. Each student will be assigned homework: practical / written and oral / learning.
2. The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified and agreed by teachers in the subject area according to the homework policy.
3. Homework will be monitored to ensure that students are not overloaded.
4. A rough time guide will be suggested for each Year Group.
5. Teachers will correct homework and give feedback to students in line with subject homework policy.
6. Special consideration will be given to students with special educational needs.
7. Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work.
8. Students. First Years in particular, will be given specific training in homework/study skills.

9. Parents will be informed when students do not carry out set homework tasks and detention may ensue.
10. Records of homework, grades and comments will be kept by each teacher.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Management

1. To ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time.
2. To approve the policy.
3. To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy.

Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads

1. The Principal and Deputy Principal will ensure that all teaching staff are aware of the current policies of the school including the policy of assigning regular homework in all subject areas.
2. Year Heads have responsibility to support teachers in situations where a student is repeatedly uncooperative regarding homework.

Subject Teachers

1. To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students.
2. To keep records of homework set.
3. To reinforce the homework/study skills in which the students have received instruction.

Pastoral Care Personnel (Year Heads, Guidance and Learning Support Personnel)

1. To monitor the effects of the policy if they identify students experiencing difficulty.
2. To provide support and guidance.
3. To liaise with subject teachers / Year Heads as needed.

Parents are encouraged:

1. To support school policy.
2. To provide suitable conditions for homework.
3. To ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework.
4. To sign all notes from teachers.
5. To check diary on a weekly basis.

Students are required:

1. To do homework set, both oral / learning and written / practical.
2. To present written homework properly and on time.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

1. Subject teachers will develop a departmental approach to homework which suits the needs of their particular subject area.
2. The agreed guidelines to be forwarded to the Year Head.
3. The Year Head of each year group, in consultation with the relevant subject teachers, will develop a homework and time guide for the year group.
4. The Learning Support Teachers may have a role to help design homework for students with special educational needs. The Guidance Counsellor may lend a supporting role in this.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

1. Good quality homework is being presented.
2. There is a reduction in the pressure on students in relation to homework.
3. Parents and students are satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy.
4. The goals are being attained.

MONITORING PROCEDURES

1. Year Heads have responsibility to support teachers in situations where a student is repeatedly uncooperative regarding homework.
2. Subject Departments will review implementation and report to Year Heads.
3. Principal and Deputy Principal will consult with Subject Departments, Year Heads and Pastoral Care Personnel on effectiveness of policy.
4. The Principal; will report to the Board of Management.

REVIEW PROCEDURES

The policy will be reviewed annually. The review team will comprise the Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads.

1. Views and experience of teachers, students and parents will be considered in relation to the success criteria.
2. The progress of students with special educational needs will be reviewed by review team.

Ratified by Board of Management 29/01/2007.