

Homework Policy

St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College, Claudy



Introduction

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study and is important in raising pupil achievement.

Homeworks should:

- Develop the habit of independent study
- Consolidate and complete work begun with teachers in class
- Encourage revision of work covered
- Develop home school links
- Help pupils prepare for future lessons and assessments

Types of homework:

The amount and the nature of homework will vary according to subject and year group. Homework should be related to work that pupils are doing in their lessons and take account of the range of abilities of those pupils. Examples of homework activities include:

- Reading
- Writing or preparing essays
- Completing set questions/exercises
- Summarising
- Completing or researching a project
- Revising
- Past paper questions
- Computer based work
- Catching up on work missed

Role of the Pupil:

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- Record details of homework set along with the date that the work is due.
- Ask the class teacher if unclear of what is expected.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work set and give their best.

Role of the Class Teacher:

- To set regular, meaningful and appropriate homework tasks.
- To give full and comprehensive instructions.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- To mark and return all homework promptly.
- Feedback to the pupil on how well they have done and how they can improve.

(This may be in the form of written comments or annotation, on other occasions oral feedback to individuals or whole class feedback on aspects of the homework may be more appropriate).

Role of the Form Teacher:

- To monitor the pupil planner to see that homework is being set and recorded.
- To check that the pupil planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To pass on any concerns raised by parents/guardians or pupils in relation to homework to the relevant class teacher or Head of Department.

Role of the Parent/Guardian:

- To take an active interest in homework.
- To ensure that time is set aside for homework.
- To encourage and support the completion of homework.
- To sign the pupil planner on a weekly basis.
- To communicate any concerns regarding homework with the Form teacher in the first instance.

Failure to complete homework:

If there is a genuine reason why a homework has not been completed parents/guardians are asked to provide a note to the class teacher, otherwise:

- The class teacher should record failure to complete work in the pupil planner and/or SIMS.
- If three homeworks are not completed the class teacher will inform the Head of Department who will send out a “letter of concern” to parents/guardians. This is recorded on SIMS.
- If the problem persists the matter will be referred to the Vice Principal Curriculum (when two letters of concern have been issued by the same Head of Department).

The school provides an afterschool homework club to encourage good study habits.

Pupils should make an effort to plan their work throughout the week and throughout the term to avoid becoming overburdened.

In Year 8 and in Year 9, pupils should expect 1-1.5hrs of home study each night building to 1hr 20mins in Year 10 and 2 hours in Year 11 and Year 12. Time spent doing homework will vary for each pupil but here are some recommendations:

- Year 8/9 - 60 minutes each weekday evening

20 mins: Reading, 20 mins: Maths/English, 20 mins: Subject homework

- Year 10 - 1 hour 20 mins each weekday evening

20 mins: Reading, 30 mins: Maths/English, 30 mins: Subject homework

- Year 11/12 - 2 hours each weekday evening

30 mins: Reading, 30 mins: Maths/English 90 mins: Subject homework