



St Mary's C.B.S., Enniscorthy Homework Policy



Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to strive to create a supportive learning environment, which encourages each person to develop to their full potential.

Definition of Homework

Homework is a written or oral assignment given by a teacher to a student. It should serve to re-enforce work done in class and that it should act as a bridge between the work of one day and the next.

Purpose of Homework

- To reinforce and strengthen concepts taught in class
- To complete unfinished class-work
- To develop independent study skills and work habits
- To develop responsibility and good time management
- To enhance academic achievement.

Role of Parents/Guardians

- Having a link between school and home reinforces learning and provides parents and guardians with a means of becoming involved in their sons learning.
- Parents/Guardians can ensure that homework is a priority for their son where there are other things competing for their son's time like television and sport.
- Parents/Guardians spend time monitoring their son's journal to ensure that homework is being recorded and completed.
- If homework is not completed, done or presented, a note in the journal is required from parents/guardians explaining why.
- It is a good idea if students have a place in the home where they can study

Role of Student

- Students have a role to play in their own learning and thus, have responsibilities in relation to homework.
- Students should ensure that homework is accurately recorded in their homework journal.

- Students should also complete their homework to the best of their ability and present the homework on the due date.
- Students are responsible for finding out what homework they are given when they are absent from classes for sport or other reasons.
- Should a student have problems in relation to their homework, they should engage with their parents/guardians. If the problem results in non-completion of homework, students should ensure they have a note from their parents/guardians, outlining the reasons.

Role of Teacher

- Teachers will set regular homework on topics covered in class
- Teachers will explain the standards required in their subject areas-both written and learning.
Possible methods to achieve this include:
 - a) Writing homework assignments clearly on the board.
 - b) Giving adequate time to take this down during or at end of class.
 - c) Making parents aware of any problems by sending a note home in the journal.
 - d) Giving structures and guidelines for revision.
- Teachers will correct homework and provide feedback. The correction of homework may take different forms e.g. oral correction in class, student paired correction, teacher correction of copies etc. Feedback may include comments, grades or recommendations.
- The whole school homework policy will be enhanced by the homework policy of each subject department
- Teachers will follow the guidelines in this policy in relation to students non compliance with homework required.

Role of School

- To ensure that study skills and work habits are highlighted to all students through assemblies, advice of teachers, CSPE classes, SPHE classes and Career Guidance.
- That the use of outside agencies for exam classes is developed, in order to enhance the work being done in the school.
- A homework club is provided for 1st and 2nd and 3rd year students from disadvantaged backgrounds. A tutor provides support to the students in the homework club.
- The school also provides Evening Study from Monday to Friday, which students have the opportunity to avail of. Saturday study and Easter study is provided nearer the time of examinations subject to demand.

Use of the Journal

- The following practice should be observed by all students in relation to homework journals;
 - Fill in each subject for each day.
 - Tick off each subject when homework is completed.
 - Parents and tutors should monitor use of homework journal for homework purposes weekly.

Types of Homework

- Homework can be short term i.e. due for the next day, or long term e.g. the writing of an essay or the completion of a project.
- Homework can be a review of the learning taken in class.
- Homework can be directed reading to prepare for the next class.
- Homework can be written work, practical work or research work.
- Homework can be in the form of revision of work already learned.

Minimum Guidelines Times for Homework and Study

- The following table provides guidelines for the **minimum** amount of time that should be spent on homework and study per night.

First Year	1 Hour
Second Year	1 and a half Hours
Third Year	2 Hours
Fifth Year	2 and a half Hours
Sixth Year	3 Hours
Transition Year and LCA	Varies during the year according to project deadlines

Promotion of Good Study Habits

- At St Mary's C.B.S., we give students subject awards every year. Students are given awards for their academic achievement and for their effort and application to work in their various subjects. Attitude and application to homework forms part of the criteria by which these awards are awarded.

Non compliance with Homework

- Teachers may take the following steps for non-completion of homework.
 - (a) Written punishment work; repetition of exercise
 - (b) Note home in Journal
 - (c) Parents may be contacted to further discuss problems
 - (d) Persistent non-presentation of homework may result in a referral to class tutor or Year Head.

Review

- Policy will be reviewed after three years.