



BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL
LISMORE, CO. WATERFORD.

Whole School Policy on Homework

Reviewed 16.11.2021
Reviewed 9th October 2023

RATIONALE

Homework is an integral part 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.

HOMEWORK IS MOST BENEFICIAL WHEN

- ◆ It reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge.
- ◆ It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation.
- ◆ Parents are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school's homework policy
- ◆ Students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents.
- ◆ It is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated.
- ◆ It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study.
- ◆ Teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the year group and capabilities of the students.
- ◆ It is marked promptly and accurately.
- ◆ Feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students.
- ◆ It develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study.

GOALS

- ◆ To ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across the school.
- ◆ To provide a consistent Whole-School structure in relation to homework.
- ◆ To emphasize the importance of homework in the overall learning process.
- ◆ To encourage parents to take an interest in and to share responsibilities in their children's homework.
- ◆ To enable students to develop a capacity to organize their own work.

POLICY CONTENT

- ◆ The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified by subject teacher.
- ◆ Homework will be monitored to ensure that students are not overloaded.
- ◆ A balance will be maintained between written/ practical work and oral/ learning work.
- ◆ Teachers will correct homework and give feedback to students.
- ◆ Special consideration will be given to students with ~~special~~ additional educational needs.

- ◆ Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work.
- ◆ Students will be given specific training, during SPHE, in study and homework skills. The school also provide workshops which provide students with learning skills and memory techniques to succeed in school and in exams. These have proved very beneficial for all involved. **Teachers are encouraged to provide their students with appropriate revision plans for their respective subjects.**
- ◆ Parents will be informed when students do not carry out set homework through a Notice of Concern form **and recording it on VSWare.**
- ◆ Records of homework, grades and comments will be kept by each teacher.
- ◆ A rough time-guide will be provided for each year group. This has to be sustainable.
 - 1st Years: 1½ - 2 Hours
 - 2nd Years: 2 Hours
 - 3rd Years: 2 – 3 Hours
 - 4th Years: ½ - 1 Hour
 - 5th Years: 2 Hours at the beginning of the year then increase to 3 Hours
 - 6th Years: 3 Hours + depending on the time of the year
- ◆ Students should note each day's homework in their PR book.
- ◆ Parents will sign each week's homework and merit pages in the PR Book.
- ◆ Non-compliance with homework policy will initiate disciplinary procedures.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

To ensure the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time.

To approve the policy.

To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy

PRINCIPAL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, YEAR HEADS AND TUTORS

To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy.

To monitor the implementation of the policy.

To monitor PR books and Homework.

SUBJECT TEACHERS

To implement the policy, review homework and provide feedback to students.

To keep records of homework set.

To instruct students in homework/ study skills.

To leave work for the class for a foreseeable absence, e.g. Extra Curricular Activity / CPD Training/ Personal Day etc. Substitution teacher should be notified of work by email.

To inform parents of a persistent problem.

PASTORAL CARE PERSONNEL

To monitor the effects of the policy and to identify students experiencing difficulty.

To provide support and guidance.

PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED

To support the school policy.

To provide suitable conditions for homework.

To ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework.

To monitor their child's homework in the PR book and to sign the PR Book weekly.

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED

To do homework set.

To present written homework properly.

To document homework or "No Homework Given" in PR Book.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Each subject department will develop guidelines on the amount of homework and the balance between written/practical work and learning/oral work that is desirable for each year group.

Each subject department will develop guidelines on the homework/study skills appropriate for that subject.

The Guidance Counsellor and AEN Department may advise on differentiating homework for students with Special Educational Needs.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

That good quality homework is being presented as appraised by individual subject teacher.

Parents and students are satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy.

The goals are being achieved.

MONITORING PROCEDURES

Subject teachers are responsible for difficulties at class level. Appropriate sanctions should be applied and records kept. When improvement is not forthcoming the student is referred to the class tutor and if necessary the class tutor may refer to the year head. In extreme cases a referral is made to the Monitor of Discipline.

Subject Departments will review implementation annually.

Principal, Deputy Principal will meet with Subject Departments, Year Heads, Class Tutors and Pastoral Care Personnel annually.

The Principal will report to the Board of Management once per year.

MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION

The Policy will be reviewed after two years.

Views and experiences of teachers, students and parents will be surveyed in relation to the success criteria

School records will be analysed to assess the students' academic progress.

The progress of students with Special Educational Needs will be given particular consideration.

Adopted by Board of Management: November 16th, 2021

Reviewed October 2023 – Brought to staff 23rd October 2023