

# Homework Policy

## Blackwater Community School



### Review Dates

Stakeholder	Date	Ratify / Review / Amend
Staff	20 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Review
Parents	January 2026	Review
Student Body	12 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Review
BOM	28 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Ratify

**Due for next Review: January 2028**

## RATIONALE

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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

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- ◆ 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, and the recording of same, 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.

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## GOALS

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- ◆ 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.

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## POLICY CONTENT

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- ◆ The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified by subject teacher.
- ◆ 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 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, on a regular basis, through a Notice of Concern form and / or recording it on VSWare and / or a text home.
- ◆ 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.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Years: 1½ - 2 Hours
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Years: 2 Hours
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Years: 2 – 3 Hours
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Years: ½ - 1 Hour
  - 5<sup>th</sup> Years: 2 Hours at the beginning of the year then increase to 3 Hours
  - 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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To ensure the policy is developed and evaluated every two years.

To approve the policy.

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

### PRINCIPAL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, YEAR HEADS AND TUTORS

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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

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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, via Notice of Concern, / Comment on VSWare / Text home.

## PASTORAL CARE PERSONNEL

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

To provide support and guidance.

## PARENTS ARE ENCOURAGED

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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

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To do homework set.

To present written homework properly.

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

To catch up on homework missed while at school events.

## IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

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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. This is recorded in the Subject Plan.

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

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

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

The goals are being achieved.

## MONITORING PROCEDURES

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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 regularly.

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

## MONITORING, REVIEW & EVALUATION

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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:

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed by the Board of Management once in every school year. Written notification that the review has been completed will be made available to school personnel, published on the school and provided to the Parents' Association. A record of the review and its outcome will be made available, if requested, to the patron and the Department.

Signed: **Colette Power** (Chairperson of Board of Management)

\_\_\_\_ *Colette Power* \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: **Denis Ring** (Principal)

\_\_\_\_ *Denis Ring* \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_ 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 \_\_\_\_\_

(Signed Copy on File.)