
HOMWORK



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|---|
| Rationale | 2 |
| OBJECTIVES: | 2 |
| GUIDELINES:..... | 2 |
| a) The Nature of Homework:..... | 2 |
| b) How does the school help pupils organise their homework?..... | 3 |
| c) How can parents help with homework?..... | 3 |
| d) Failure to hand in homework..... | 3 |
| CONCLUSION:..... | 3 |
| Document History | 4 |

RATIONALE

Homework provides a necessary extension and support to work done in the classroom. Properly set and monitored, it helps to develop the skills of independent working and personal organisation necessary for meeting deadlines.

OBJECTIVES:

1. To help students to make more rapid progress in learning.
2. To allow students to develop the practice of working on their own. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
3. To enable work at home which can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds?
4. To allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
5. To allow students to use materials and other sources of information that is not always available in the classroom.
6. To involve parents and others in the students' work for their mutual benefit.
7. To give opportunities for long term research and other work.
8. To give students valuable experience of working to deadlines.

GUIDELINES:

A) THE NATURE OF HOMEWORK:

We have a system whereby most departments set one or two homework tasks per week for each class. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes and topics of study. Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. We aim to return marked homework to the students as soon as possible for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the student's mind.

Each homework may involve the following:

- reading / writing / spelling;
- watching a T.V. programme;
- carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project;
- observing / recording;
- making a model to exemplify an item of work. This often involves the whole family in the discussion, e.g. a musical instrument, circuit games, digestive system. Materials are either provided or involve the use of 'household junk' items. The majority of students thoroughly enjoy this type of challenge and commit more than 1 hour to the task;
- completing an exercise to practice, enforce or apply aspects of the class work, e.g. writing up practical work.

The task selected by the class teacher is commensurate with the ability of the students.

B) HOW DOES THE SCHOOL HELP PUPILS ORGANISE THEIR HOMEWORK?

- a. Each student is given a homework diary/planner at the beginning of the year and is expected to have it with them in college at all times.
- b. We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all students have plenty of time to copy down what is expected.
- c. We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to students.

C) HOW CAN PARENTS HELP WITH HOMEWORK?

- a. Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework diary/planner. There is space there for your regular signature.
- b. Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
- c. Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- d. Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- e. Let us know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the class teacher in the first instance who will be glad to help. The homework diary/planner is ideal for making this first contact.

D) FAILURE TO HAND IN HOMEWORK

We expect completed homework to be given in on time. This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines and assists staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not given in, appropriate action is taken:

- the class teacher will have a discussion with the student to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work;
- non-completion will be recorded in the homework diary/planner and the student will be expected to complete the task by the following day;
- the student may be told to attend a break time or lunch time detention
- if there is a repeated failure to co-operate, the class teacher may give the student a school detention (one hour after school) and contact the parents/carers to discuss the problem

CONCLUSION:

Students who plan their homework and complete all tasks conscientiously ensure that their progress through schemes of work is optimised. They understand areas of study more fully and acquire skills more efficiently. Such students dramatically improve their prospects in the public examinations.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

| Policy Author / Adopted By | Reviewed By | Date |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | Stuent Support Committee | 17 th November 2009 |
