



# Scoil Bhríde Homework Policy

## Introduction

Our school homework policy is rooted in the school's basic aim to assist students to develop their full potential in an atmosphere of care, respect and excellence.

## What is Homework?

Anything that reinforces learning in the classroom and is a balance of written, oral and revision such as:

- Written, oral and aural experiences,
- Research by the student on a topic e.g. for projects, interviews etc.
- Memorising,
- Doing corrections and working on exam questions are a good way to learn by assessment and help students find out where they went wrong or could improve in their exam answers,

Student with special needs are given due consideration. Students are given direction and help in homework/study skills

## Purpose of Homework

Homework is a vital part of school life and must be done carefully and consistently.

Homework helps students to:

- Revise, reinforce and consolidate knowledge,
- Learn by doing,
- Acquire responsibility and self-discipline, for example to do their own research,
- Prepare for exams through development of good study habits,

Therefore teachers assign homework to be done as part of the lesson taught that day.

Homework helps teachers to:

- Diagnose the strengths and weaknesses of particular students and to indicate where improvements can be made,
- Assess and evaluate the progress of students,
- Check for learning and understanding,

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Students**

- Record homework to be done, do it and present it properly to the teacher on time
- If the student is absent she should find out what homework has been assigned and complete it,
- Contribute to the class in a positive way and pay attention to the teacher,
- Copied or carelessly done work is not acceptable,

### **Parents**

- Providing suitable facilities,
- Encouraging a positive attitude,
- Be open to change –schools (and accordingly homework) have changed since they were in school,
- Develop a good relationship with your child’s school so that if a problem arises you can talk to someone in the school,
- Monitoring of homework by parents/guardians ensures that homework is being recorded and completed,
- **Parents/guardians of students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years are asked to sign the homework journal each evening on the understanding that the homework has been completed by the student.**

### **Staff**

- To develop and implement the policy
- Assign and review homework
- Provide feedback to students
- Record homework set and check it
- To explain to students what it means “to complete your homework”

### **Principal, Deputy Principal and Senior Management**

- To monitor the implementation of the policy

### **Board of Management**

- Ensure policy is drawn up, developed and evaluated from time to time
- Approve policy and its implementation
- Receive reports on implementation

## **How much time should be spent at homework each evening ?**

### Junior Cycle:

1<sup>st</sup> years: 1.5hours approx.

2<sup>nd</sup> years: 2 hours approx.

3<sup>rd</sup> years: 2.5-3 hours approx.

### Senior Cycle:

5<sup>th</sup> years: 2.5-3 hours approx.

6<sup>th</sup> years: 3+ hours

*Time should be scheduled for revision of homework and study at the weekends especially in the exam years.*

*Students are encouraged to draw up a study timetable the length of this will vary with age/level of student.*

*The school offers supervised study each evening in the school.*

## **How do students manage this time?**

It is very important for students to manage their time when doing homework. It is about making good use of time. There is no best time to study as each individual is different however students could:

- Break their study into periods of time,
- Make out a specific study plan and try to stick to it,
- Start small especially if having problems concentrating,
- Try to study early in the evening as tiredness makes learning more difficult – quality study versus quantity should be the goal,
- Prioritise study in exam years and see it as the important thing for now –having completed homework first,
- Do the subjects they like the least first,
- Working late in the night is not recommended,

## **Communication on homework**

- Parents should assist teachers to monitor homework by checking journals regularly,
- If for any valid reason a student is unable to do her homework a note from a parent/guardian is required. However, the homework will still need to be completed.
- Parents will be informed if pupils consistently neglect to do homework as explained below,

## **Performance criteria**

The effectiveness of the policy will be judged by reviewing the quality homework being presented in class.

## **Monitoring of homework**

- Teacher report to parents at parent/teacher meetings
- **Parents/guardians of students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years are asked to sign the homework journal each evening on the understanding that the homework has been completed by the student.**
- The setting of targets is an integral part of planning homework. As part of this process students are requested to set grade targets in preparation for house and state examinations. A Study Planning page is included in the student journal for this purpose. Students and parents, together, are encouraged to review the student's academic progress and to set achievable short and long term goals

## **Sanctions**

In the event that a student has repeatedly failed to complete her homework then this will be recorded on a white report sheet by the class teacher. The white report sheet will be sent to the Year Head. The student will be made aware of this report sheet. In the event that the Year Head receives 3 report sheets regarding the non-completion of homework, a letter will be sent home to her parent(s)/guardian(s).

## **Resources**

- Attendance at school is very important to help students use resources and time there to achieve their goals,
- Teachers are there to help students learn- students should make use of their knowledge and skills to improve their own,

- Past examinations papers are useful for questions , exam format and also marking schemes,
- Syllabuses give an overview of the subject so students could have a copy of this for revision to make sure that all parts of the course are covered,
- Multimedia resources can be useful,
- Group learning can be beneficial if everybody participates and the group is focused on drawing up notes that group members can understand and use.

My Daughter and I have read this Policy and are happy to comply with all parts of the Policy.

Parent/Guardian Signature ..... Date .....

Student Signature ..... Date.....