



Coláiste Pobail Bheanntraí

Seskin

Bantry,

Co. Cork.

Principal: Dr. Kevin Healy B.A, H.D.E, M.Ed, Ed.D

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Coláiste Pobail Bheanntraí

Homework Policy

Introduction

Coláiste Pobail Bheanntraí promotes a happy and caring school environment where pupils are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. The emphasis is placed on quality teaching and learning, positive behaviour and the pursuit of standards of excellence in all areas of school activities.

Our philosophy is based on respect, tolerance and understanding while appreciating the diversity of our changing world.

The Homework Policy aims to foster an appreciation of the importance of homework as an integral part of the teaching and learning process.

Rationale:

(For students)Homework

- Enables the review and practice of skills learned during class
- Allows students to recognise areas of difficulty
- Leads to improvements in academic performance
- Improves confidence with the learning process
- Encourages students to become independent learners
- Re-enforces work learned
- Provides a platform for further learning
- Prepares students for exams

(For Teachers)Homework

- Provides feedback on students' progress
- Enables identification of individual students' strengths and difficulties

(For Parents) Homework

- Builds a link between the home and the school
- Provides an opportunity to see the work students are doing
- Enables involvement in the students' learning

Guidelines:

Homework given should encourage effort and pride in the work produced.

It should be:

- Designed to improve academic performance
- Related to the ability of the student



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- Administered at a differential level to accommodate the needs of learners at all levels
- Used to generate ideas and give rise to independent research
- Fair, realistic and consistent

Role of Student:

Students are expected to:

- Have their journal with them at all times
- Organise their homework journal
- Write all homework into the journal
- Organise their time in order to ensure that homework is completed
- Complete homework to the best of their ability
- Present all homework by the deadline
- Ensure that homework and all other materials needed for school are in their school bag

Students absent from class due to extra-curricular activities are expected to establish and complete assignments they have for the next day.

Where appropriate, if a student has been out sick, and does not have work completed, a period of time will be given to the student to complete missed assignment

Role of Parents/Guardians:

Parents/guardians are expected to;

- Provide a suitable environment for doing homework
 - a reasonably quiet, suitable place in which students can do their homework free from distractions such as television, mobile phones, p.c., facebook etc.
- Parents should monitor the homework journal every night
- Parents should encourage regular time for study in advance of school and state exams.
- Ensure that homework is completed to the highest possible standard
- Provide books and materials where necessary
- Respond to notes from teachers
- Notify teachers where there is a problem regarding homework
- Communicate with the school when a student is absent
- **Check and sign the Journal each week**

It is recommended that students should not be employed in part time work during the school term particularly exam year students

Role of Teacher:

The teacher is expected to:

- Highlight the importance of doing homework properly
- Set homework for each class, as appropriate.



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- Explain homework clearly
- Outline/write the homework clearly on the board
- Give students time to record the homework in their journals
- Provide supporting notes and materials where applicable
- Record the homework given – What? Where? When? How?
- Check, correct, sign and date homework
- Provide feedback to students and parents through homework journal
- Record the completed homework
- Reward or sanction students
- Notify class tutor where there is a repeated problem regarding homework.

Role of Class Tutor:

The class tutor is expected to:

- Explain the importance of homework
- Encourage students to do homework to a high standard
- Check journals weekly
- Liaise with the year head/parents/teacher on a regular basis as necessary

Types of Homework

There are many different 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 written work, practical work or learning. In relation to learning homework it is very important that the student completes this each evening.
- Homework can be in the form of revision of work already learnt

The amount of homework appropriate for students of different ages:

The intrinsic value of homework activities is far more important than the precise amount of time devoted to them. As students vary in ability levels and in speed of completion of work it is difficult to indicate precisely the amount of time that should be spent on completion of homework. Best practice suggests that the amount of time should fall within the following ranges:

- First Year 1 ½ hours
- Second Year 1 ½ - 2 hours
- Third Year 2 – 3 hours
- Transition Year varies depending of project work and activities
- Fifth Year 3 - 3 ½ hours
- Sixth Year 4 hours minimum. Weekend study and revision is also essential.



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Teachers and parents need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework or when inspecting homework.

It is also necessary for both teacher and parent to ensure that there is a healthy balance between time allocated to homework and time allocated to extracurricular and leisure activities.

Supports provided in *Coláiste Pobail Bheanntíraí*

- **Study skills - delivered as part of SPHE and within October Class Tutor Meeting**

During First Year all students will be tutored in study skills and management of homework including:

- Making key notes from a piece of text
- Planning and writing of essays
- Following procedures for taking examinations.

On completion of Second Year students should have learned the following skills

- Ability to use the SQRR active study method (survey, question, read, review)
- Ability to use the library and get information from books and the internet
- Ability to review, present and interpret data

By the end of Third year the student will be expected to have mastered the following skills:

- Ability to plan a project
- Ability to use the library and get information from books and the internet
- Ability to review, present and interpret data

During Transition and Leaving Cert. Year regular evaluation and revision of study skills will take place.

All subject teachers will cover appropriate study techniques in relation to their own subject area.

During the school year Tutors, Guidance and Year Heads will review Time Management Skills, Goal Setting, Study Skills and Exam preparation with their students.

- Parents are encouraged to spend time with their son/daughter on these skills and encourage their implementation.

- **Learning Support and Resource**

- **Afterschool Study**

Supervised study (2 Hours, four days per week) is available after school. There is a fee charged for this, payable per session or per half term.

- **School Completion Programme Homework Club**

A homework club is run three evenings per week for one hour (3:35 – 4:35p.m.). Students can do their homework in a supportive and supervised environment. Individual attention is given to students.

Sanctions:



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Sanctions for failure to submit any or incomplete homework:

1st occasion of no homework -Note in journal and work must be redone

2nd occasion of no homework –

- Teacher may impose other sanction *or* complete an Incident report for Class Tuto
- Class Tutor will telephone parents/guardians & impose sanction (& Note in Journal)

3rd occasion of no homework –

- Report to Year Head.
- Letter sent to parent/guardian
- The parent/guardian should sign and return the letter.
- If there is no outcome from the letter, a second letter will be distributed requesting a meeting with the parent/guardian..
- Other sanctions may be applied in line with the Code of Behaviour.

Evaluation of Policy:

The policy will be subject to review during the year by the policy working group and school management. It will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Feedback from teachers, students and parents regarding the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its aims.
- Improved recording and monitoring of homework as evidenced in the student journal
- Increased student responsibility of homework completion
- Increased involvement of parents with regard to homework.