



School Policy on Homework

Introduction

The following mission statement for Scoil Mhuire was adopted by staff in October 1992;

“Scoil Mhuire is a Christian caring community which encourages the integrated development of every individual concerned”.

Our principal concern is to provide for our students a broad and balanced education in all its aspects-intellectual, emotional, physical, moral and cultural.

Policy rationale

Homework can be defined as any task assigned to students by teachers which is to be carried out or completed during non-school hours.

The aims of homework include the following;

- To help students take more responsibility for their individual learning & research
- To allow students to practice skills and process and internalise information.
- To provide feedback to teachers so that they can check for understanding.
- To reinforce classroom learning by providing students with opportunities to use knowledge, skills and concepts they encounter in the classroom.
- To enable students to practice techniques and skills necessary for successful examination performance vis-à-vis essay writing, problem solving etc.
- To build students' sense of competence, foster improvement and wellbeing.
- To allow students with different capabilities to progress at an appropriate level.

Principles of learning that affect the practice of homework

1. The teaching in the classroom must influence and connect with the homework.
2. Skills require practice. Teachers know that practice is required to perfect certain skills.
3. Homework is a means for students to spend time on task thereby processing and internalising information.
4. Learning is individual so time spent and tasks assigned should vary according to the age and ability of students.

5. Well-designed homework that students are able to complete can reinforce classroom learning and develop a feeling of competence in students.

6. Homework can provide feedback to students in assessing their own learning and feedback to teachers so that subsequent teaching may be adjusted.

Parents' role in Homework

In relation to homework, parents are encouraged to act as facilitators rather than enforcers.

Parents are encouraged to

- Ask their daughter what she is studying
- Ask to see homework assignments
- Provide a suitable space, free from distraction for study (i.e. phones, music devices etc.)
- Praise their daughter for completion of homework
- Monitor and sign their daughter's School Journal on a weekly basis

Parents should not

- Complete assignments for students
- Allow their daughter to sacrifice sleep to complete homework.

Suggested Time to be spent on Study and Homework

First Year: Guideline of 1.5 hours – 2hours max per school day.

Second Year: Guideline of 2 hours - 2.5 hours max per school day, regular revision at weekends

Third Year: Guideline of 2.5 hours per school night, with regular revision for exams over weekends

Transition Year: Up to 6 hours per week. Time management to meet deadlines is an important skill to be learned in 4th year.

Fifth Year; Guideline of between 2 and 3 hours per school day, with 2 or 3 hours revision work at weekends

Sixth Year: Guideline of between 3 and 4 hours per school day, with regular planned revision at weekends.

It is important to realise that no two students are the same. They will take different times to complete tasks, and each student has different aptitudes, levels of ability and goals. As such the above suggested times are a guideline based on student, parent and teacher survey.

Types of Homework

The following is a list of types of homework assigned from time to time at Scoil Mhuire.
(This list is not exhaustive)

Written assignments

Learning assignments

Essay writing

Reading

Interviews

Drill practice

Research Library/other visits

Drafting Report writing

Revision

Problem solving

Preparation for debates/role plays

Preparation for exams

Making a model

Drawing

Project work

Watching TV

Radio listening

Online research

Special Educational Needs

In setting homework for students, teachers are encouraged to set work appropriate to the varying abilities of the students concerned. In addition in setting work for students with

special educational needs teachers try to balance the right of the students to share fully in the work of the class with their individual learning needs. Subject teachers will where possible liaise with Resource Teachers and Learning Support Teacher to try to ensure class and in particular homework tasks are manageable.

Correction of Homework

Homework may be corrected in a number of ways. These include

- Work being checked by the student herself under the direction of the teacher.
- Work being checked by a peer student under the direction of the teacher
- Work is collected and corrected by the teacher

In general homework should be corrected and feedback given as soon as is reasonable and possible.

General Policy Points

1. Homework is set by individual teachers at their discretion.
2. The amount of homework assigned is appropriate to age, ability level, progress and wellbeing of the class group.
3. Students are required to enter all homework assignments into the School Journal on a daily basis.
4. If a student is absent from class, it is her responsibility to catch up on the work missed.(An arrangement should be made with a friend/classmate to record and forward details of work missed, particularly for a planned absence) For example a student may be absent due to a short illness or an extra-curricular activity. If a student has a concern about class work missed she should consult with her subject teacher. In the case of longer term absences, planned or unplanned, the student or parent should consult with the relevant Year Head.
5. If a student experiences difficulty with homework, she should inform the class teacher verbally or by means of a note from home and should be able to show that an attempt was made.
6. Teachers who become aware of persistent failure to complete homework will distinguish between a student being unable and one who is unwilling to do the homework and will deal with the student accordingly.
7. Support for students in the completion of homework is provided by the class teacher and is supplemented by the following;
 - (a) A module on Study Skills forms part of the First Year Learning Styles Programme.

(b) A voluntary Homework Club for First Years is provided one lunch-time per week throughout the year.

(c) After school supervised study is available on a limited basis to students for a fee.

(d) Students are encouraged to study as they see fit during school holiday periods and may be expected to submit homework assignments on return to school.

8. While homework is not used as a sanction for bad behaviour, persistent failure to produce homework may result in a teacher applying sanctions from the School Code of Behaviour.