

Policy on Homework for Errigal College

Rationale

Regular homework is a valuable aspect 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.

Goals

- To ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across the school
- To ensure an equitable distribution of study time for each subject
- To promote the development by students of good study habits and effective study skills
- To enable students to develop a capacity to organize their own work
- To enhance the academic achievements of students
- To encourage parents to take an interest in and to share responsibility for their children's work and progress

Policy Content

Each student will complete homework as per subject policy as directed.

The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified and agreed upon by subject departments. A rough time guide will be suggested for each year group.

Homework will be monitored by subject teacher and form teacher.

Parents are expected to check homework diaries nightly and sign them.

Students must bring home the required books and materials to complete homework satisfactorily.

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 special educational needs.

Homework set will be appropriate and suitable to the work of the class or to some future work.

Students will be given specific training in homework/study skills.

Records of homework and grades will be kept by each teacher.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management

- To ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time
- To approve the policy
- To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy

Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads

- To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy
- To monitor the implementation of the policy

Subject Teachers

- To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students
- To keep records of homework set
- To instruct students in homework/study skills

Pastoral care Personnel, Guidance and SEN Personnel

- To monitor the effects of the policy and to identify students experiencing difficulty
- To provide support and guidance, especially for those experiencing difficulty
- To liaise with subject teachers, especially in relation to consideration for students with special educational needs

Parents are obliged

- To support school policy
- To provide suitable conditions for homework
- To ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework
- To inform school if there are problems understanding/completing homework

Students are required

- To record homework in diary
- To do all homework set, both oral/learning and written/practical
- To present written homework properly

Implementation Procedures

- Each subject department will develop agreed guidelines on the amount of homework and the balance between written/practical work and oral/learning work that is desirable for each year group.
- Each subject department will develop guidelines on the homework/study skills appropriate for that subject.
- The Guidance Counsellor and SEN department will advise on designing homework for students with SEN

Success Criteria

- Good quality homework is being presented
- Parents and students are satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy
- The goals are being attained

Monitoring procedures

- Form teachers and Year Heads will conduct on-going monitoring through informal discussion with students and subject teachers and through homework spot checks and will note feedback from students, teachers and parents
- Subject departments will review implementation once per term
- Principal/Deputy Principal will meet with Subject Departments, Year Heads, Form Teachers and Pastoral Care team on a regular basis
- The Principal will report to the BOM as required

Review procedures

The policy will be reviewed after two years. The review team will comprise the Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads.

- Views and experiences of teachers, students and parents will be surveyed in relation to the success criteria
- School records will be analysed to assess impact on students' academic progress
- The progress of students with SEN will be given particular consideration

Sanctions:

These sanctions are to be used in conjunction with individual subject department policies.

Discretion for SEN and EAL students should be allowed.

The Homework Book in the staffroom should still be used. Record non completion in the book. If a student's name is entered on 3 separate occasions, he/she will be referred to the Graded Sanctions process:

Graded Sanctions:

1. Student spoken to and listened to and note put in diary to be signed by parents. To be completed by the following day.
2. Inform form teacher; speak to student; must catch up. All homework to be completed.
3. Student may be put on detention by form teacher having spoken with subject teacher. Student must catch up on all homework not completed and should be allowed to do homework during detention.
4. YH rings home
5. Meeting with P/DP

Rewards:

The use of rewards is encouraged in relation to the completion of homework. It should also be noted that SCP can assist with supporting the whole area of homework.

Approved by BOM 11-12-08