

ATHBOY COMMUNITY SCHOOL POLICY ON HOMEWORK

Mission Statement and Aims

Our homework policy is rooted in our Mission Statement i.e. to provide quality, holistic and inclusive education for the community. Our aim is to create a safe and caring environment, which encourages pupils to reach their full potential in an atmosphere of mutual respect. Where possible, homework should develop and apply the student's own ideas.

Homework, or out of school learning, provides an opportunity to develop the partnership between school, students and home. It is important that all the partners play their part in the interest of improving student learning.

Rationale

The purpose of homework is to support the learning of students, to assist in reinforcing material covered in lessons, and to aid independent research. The rationale of this policy is:

- To support classroom learning
- To ensure homework is completed
- To ensure all know their rights and responsibilities
- To monitor progress

Goals

- To create a uniform approach to the giving of homework
- To establish structures for reasonable homework assignment and duration
- To develop good habits and study skills
- Increase the number completing homework to the best of their ability
- To ensure all stakeholders are aware of the policy
- To establish best practice for the giving and correction of homework

Roles & Responsibilities

Classroom Teacher

- Give meaningful homework of some form each nightly
- Clarify what is expected of pupils
- Ensure homework is recorded correctly in journal
- Correct homework given and provide feedback within one week

- When learning homework is given it should be orally corrected.
- Keep account of all homework not completed in teachers' journal and record same in students' journal.
- Inform parents where there is a problem through the use of standardised homework letter. Where this is unsuccessful, refer to Year Head.
- Positively comment on and reinforce homework completion
- Annotate corrected work to show how answers might be improved upon.
- Praise pupils personally in the event of homework being well done.
- Homework should prepare pupils for the next step in learning, expanding on concepts/skills taught

Subject Departments will agree on the type and amount of homework to be completed by each year group and level. In the case of practical/project work, a timetable for the completion of work for each year group will be agreed

Students

- Record homework assigned in their journal
- Complete their homework to the best of their ability as soon as possible
- Allow adequate time for study and revision
- Get homework if they are absent. This includes extra curricular activities.

Guidelines for Students	
1st Year	2 hours
2nd Year	2 ½ hours
3rd Year	2 hours and allow 1 hrs per night for revision
5th Year	2 ½ hours
6th Year	Aim to do 3 - 4 hours per night. Use weekends and holidays for revision and review of courses.

In Third Year and in Senior Cycle it is expected that, at weekends, students will develop and follow a study plan to include revision of previous work, in addition to time spent on extended assignments.

Parents/ Guardians

- Provide an environment conducive to the completion of study/homework
- Ensure the suggested amount of time is spent on homework (See guidelines grid)
- Take an active interest in the homework being completed by students and encourage them to make their best efforts at all times
- Reward students for achievements evidenced by feedback from teachers
- Monitor and sign pupil's School Journal weekly

Pastoral Care Team (Tutors, Guidance and Resource Personnel)

- To monitor the effects of the policy and to identify students experiencing difficulty.
- To provide support and guidance, especially for those experiencing difficulties.
- To liaise with subject teachers, especially in consideration for students with special educational needs.
- Tutor to award credit for homework at the end of term

Year Head

- To facilitate a Study Skills seminar for their year group
- Where a student has been referred by a Tutor, the Year Head may decide to place this student on Homework Report.

School

- Ensure policy is published, distributed and explained to all stakeholders
- To facilitate supervised study for those who wish to avail of it.

Sanctions

- If homework is not presented the matter will be recorded in the Student Journal.
- The Journal will be signed by the Parent/ Guardian. Supplementary work may be given
- A standard homework letter may be sent home.
- The student's homework will be monitored by the Tutor and referred to Year Head if necessary

Monitoring Procedures

Class Teacher records non completion of homework in the Journal. After the third note a standard letter is sent home by the subject teacher and counter signed by the Year Head. The Tutor will discuss the issue with the students.

If this proves ineffective the Tutor should refer the matter to the Year Head who may put the student on Homework Report.

Review Procedures

The policy will be reviewed in May 2011. The review team will comprise the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Heads and other interested teachers.