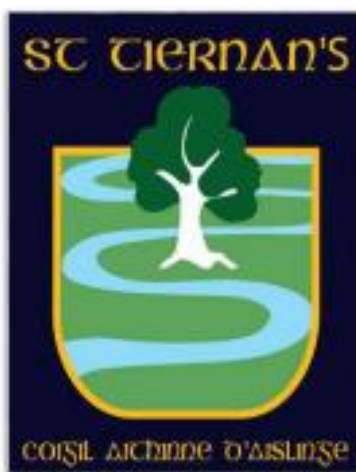


St. Tiernan's Community School

Homework Policy



Last updated: 2024

Introduction

In St. Tiernan's Community School, we endeavour to ensure a healthy and supportive learning environment; Homework is an integral element of this learning environment.

"Homework is the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned activities to practise, reinforce or apply newly-acquired skills and knowledge and to learn necessary skills of independent study"

Jocelyn A. Butler, School Improvement Series

Indeed, effective homework provides opportunities to reinforce and facilitate learning, to stimulate thinking, and to encourage active independent learning, as well as to develop a closer relationship between learning in school and at home.

Homework is a valuable component of our students' learning experience. It:

- Embeds the curriculum.
- Consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding developed at school,
- Develops students' planning, organisation, and research skills
- Develops students' critical thinking skills
- Develops students' independent learning skills
- Helps to develop appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes in students
- Develops students' skills, self-discipline and motivation to study effectively on their own
- Aids memory
- Gives an opportunity to review work already examined in school
- Gives an opportunity to explore work not yet examined in school (flipped classroom)
- Stimulates thinking,
- Improves the student's assimilation of material,
- Encourages the gathering and assimilation of additional materials that may be beneficial to student learning.
- Helps students to identify learning problems, consequently leading to subsequent classroom questions, clarification and reinforcement
- Encourages active independent learning,
- Helps to build self-confidence in students' own learning processes,
- Develops a closer relationship between learning in school and at home
- Involves parents in the management of students' learning &
- Keeps parents informed about the work students are doing
- Provides an avenue for teacher formative assessment.

Understanding that homework benefits students, we are also aware that students who make no effort or inadequate effort will be disadvantaged in their learning.

Homework can take a variety of forms including:

Written assignments

Learning assignments

Revision work

Collecting information for projects

Re-reading material previously taught or material related to that previously taught

Watching education documentaries

Preparing for debates, role-plays etc

Preparation for practical classes

Reading

Video analysis

Research

Project work

Preparing material for future class work

Preparing material for oral, or aural work;

Examination questions

Practising graphs, diagrams etc.

Analysing maps, documents or pictorial material;

Summarising of material.

Differentiated homework may be given to students to facilitate success by students who range in academic ability / performance.

Procedures

Teachers assign homework for most lessons.

Homework will be appropriate to the age, level and ability of students.

In class, homework expectations will be clearly explained by the teacher and written on board or posted on Google classroom. .

Students will have an opportunity to clarify the homework tasks if in doubt

The homework assigned will have an appropriate level of challenge for students and have a clear purpose

Homework must be written correctly by students into their homework journals.

Where homework is posted by a teacher on Google-classroom, the student must note in their journal to check the learning platform for homework assigned

If homework is not being done, the class-teacher must write a note in homework journal to be signed at home by parents / guardians

It is the student's responsibility to ask for guidance / help if needed

The teacher keeps a record of all homework assigned, attempted, completed and work not attempted.

The teacher gives appropriate feedback to each student (e.g. verbal / written feedback) to acknowledge the student's effort, what he/she has done well and also suggests how the homework might be improved. It is expected that the student responds to this feedback by improving on their homework pieces using the feedback advice given.

Teachers work collaboratively with department colleagues to plan homework practices which ensure the consistent and differentiated assignment of homework takes place. This collaboration will appear in the subject department attainment plan.

Teachers advise students on the estimated length of time it should take to complete the assignments.

They ensure all students record the learning content and homework assigned in their journal at the end of the lesson. Teachers review homework assignments through class group corrections/collection of copy books/self-assessment/peer-assessment/digital media platforms.

They provide constructive feedback in a variety of ways to students for example (grade and comment, verbal, digital media platforms) on all homework assignments in keeping with the formative assessment model.

They use examples of excellent homework in the classroom.

Teachers check homework is complete in line with expectations.

Teachers communicate on homework with parents using the School Journal.

The Code of Behaviour is used when a student continuously fails to produce homework.

Teachers reward excellent homework through the school journal notes section/House points, displaying as examples etc.

Differentiated homework allows all students to obtain success, encompassing a wide range of academic challenges ranging from what is essential for all students to know / understand / do to extension exercises to provide depth of learning for some.

Frequency

Homework is given during most classes at the discretion of the subject teacher.

Homework is most effective when students follow a regular homework routine, spending appropriate time and effort on homework.

Marking and Follow Up

Marking and follow-up vary with the year group, subject and topic may take the format of:

In class-teacher questions

Homework taken up and individually corrected by the teacher

Student self-assessment in class

Presentations in class

Project work

Peer assessment, using success criteria.

Self-correction with teacher guidance and use of success criteria

Group work Depending on the nature of the homework, students may be asked to do corrections – e.g. check facts / structure. It may be appropriate to go over common errors with the whole class. Student self-evaluation and peer-assessment is encouraged where appropriate.

Co-teacher

Parental involvement can hugely impact effective homework and learning by students. Parents can support the school in regard to homework assignments by:

Promoting a positive attitude towards homework

Showing consistent interest and concern regarding their child's performance both in homework, and in school

Setting high yet realistic expectations of their children regarding the completion of homework

Supporting the student in their performance of homework when it enhances learning; However such support should not replace the student's own work.

Encouraging students to do homework early in the evening

Ensuring the students at home are provided with a suitable area to study; Quiet, equipped with desk and chair and good quality of lighting

Ensuring student spends suggested amount of time on homework / study

Monitoring the homework journal on a regular basis and signing the homework journal on a weekly basis

Monitoring their child's work to ensure that the work is being done in the best possible effort.

Ensuring that any outside-activities do not interfere with their child's completion of homework and revision

Communicating early if a homework-related problem emerges that merits the attention of the school

Fostering study skills in their children

Attending information sessions provided by the school to support parents in overseeing study skills and other aspects of school work.

Paying particular note to the section in the journal where notes are recorded by teachers.

All homework should be recorded in the student's Journal.

This journal is integral for establishing, monitoring and maintaining homework compliance and standards.

The Journal is to be signed on a weekly basis by the parent/guardian.

Journals are regularly monitored and signed by the Tutors and Year-heads.

The Journals are available to all teachers should they wish to communicate with parents/guardians.

Students must have their Homework Journal in clear view on their desk for all classes. Homework should be recorded for every subject on a daily basis.

Homework should be regularly dated and signed.

Students must use this information every evening to check all homework to be done.

All homework, written assignments and learning assignments must be recorded in the student's All homework is to be completed on time and to the best of a student's ability.

If a student has been out sick, and does not have work completed, a period of time may be given to the student to complete missed assignments.

If a class-test has been arranged, written homework or new material will not be assigned in the class before the test; Rather test-revision will be the assigned homework.

Guidelines Regarding Time to Spend on Homework

Students vary in ability levels and in speed of completion of work. Consequently, it would be impossible to indicate precisely the amount of time that should be spent by each individual student in the completion of homework and study/revision on a daily basis.

However the following is a general guideline for what might be appropriate at different levels as students move up through the school:

1st Year _ 1 to 2 hours

2nd Year _ 1.5 to 2 hours

3rd Year _ 2 to 3 hours

4th Year _ Will vary depending on amount of project work

5th Year _ 3 hours

6th Year _ 3+ hours

Homework Support

Homework Club & After-School Study are available for students at St. Tiernan's.