

F.C.J. Secondary School Bunclody



HOMWORK POLICY

Scope :

This policy applies to the entire school community - students, parents, teachers - during the course of the school year.

Definition of Policy:

This policy is a statement of the position of the school community with regard to homework in all its aspects e.g. frequency, duration, format.

Rationale :

- ✘ To inform the school community of the school's position regarding homework.
- ✘ To promote uniformity and consistency in the approach to homework.

Relationship to Mission Statement and Aims :

The Homework Policy gives practical expression to the school's mission of promoting academic and personal fulfillment.

Roles and Responsibilities in Implementing Policy:

Teachers, pupils and parents play a significant role in and must take responsibility for implementing the policy.

Content:

Definition of Homework:

Homework is subject based work assigned by a teacher, for completion by a student, alone or with others, outside of class. It may be oral, aural, written, memorising, reading, practical research, project centred or revision.

The Purpose of Homework:

1. To reinforce and supplement the work done in class.
2. To complete what was begun in class.
3. To prepare future work.
4. To give students the opportunity to develop independent working habits.

Expectations regarding Homework.

Teachers may expect that:

- ✘ Students will record all homework in the school journal
- ✘ Students will meet agreed deadlines
- ✘ Students will make an honest effort to complete homework fully
- ✘ All work will be well presented
- ✘ Parents will supervise homework as appropriate
- ✘ Parents will furnish a signed and dated explanatory note in the event that homework is incomplete or not done
- ✘ Students missing class time due to extra-curricular activities will obtain and complete assigned homework
- ✘ Students will make every effort to catch up on work when absent for a period of time due to illness or other reasons

Students may expect that:

- ✘ Homework in each subject area will take up a reasonable amount of time
- ✘ Adequate allowance is made for time-consuming homework, such as essays etc .
- ✘ Homework will be relevant to class work
- ✘ Homework will be monitored
- ✘ Adequate time will be given in class for the recording of homework

Parents may expect

- ✘ To be kept informed of difficulties regarding homework
- ✘ To be given the opportunity to discuss homework problems with relevant teachers, at a time mutually convenient to the teacher and parent.
- ✘ That teachers would be conscious of learning difficulties when assigning homework

Duration of Homework :

Time management is an important skill and students must learn to be responsible for their homework and reasonable in the time they allocate to it. The length of time spent on homework will vary, depending on year group, level of ability, time of year etc., but the following time allocation may be useful as a guide:

- First year: 2 hours
- Second year: 2 to 2½ hours
- Third year: 2½ to 3 hours
- Fourth Year: Homework will be given but may be less structured than in Junior years and will often consist of research for extended essays or project work
- Fifth year: 2½ to 3 hours
- Sixth year: 3 to 4 hours

If students complete some homework during the school day they are still expected to spend the above number of hours at homework /study.

Incentives:

- ✘ Certificate Awards for students who get first in each of the subjects at the Christmas and End of Year Tests

✘ Awards for Students who obtain first place in their class at the end of the school year

Parental Involvement

As partners in their children's education, parents are expected to take an active interest in their homework. In particular they are expected to :

- ✘ Provide adequate facilities to enable their children to undertake their homework, i.e. space, light, heat, ventilation, freedom from noise and other distractions
- ✘ Provide adequate supervision as appropriate to the needs of the student
- ✘ Examine the homework journal regularly
- ✘ Furnish an explanatory note in the Journal, signed and dated, in the event that homework is incomplete or not done

The Homework Journal

The journal is an essential item, purchased in September by all students, containing the following elements:

- ✘ Space in which to record student's details such as parents/guardians signature, address, contact telephone number, class group etc. It is important these details and the Code of Behaviour signature are filled in
- ✘ A resume of school rules
- ✘ Pages on which to record homework
- ✘ Space is provided at the end of each week in the journal, which teachers may use to communicate with parents
- ✘ A space where parents may sign weekly to indicate that they have examined the journal for that week will be introduced from September 2009.

The journal is not a private document and both teachers and parents must be shown the journal on request. It is one of the methods used by the school for communication between teachers and parents. Parents are strongly encouraged to examine it on a regular basis. Journals must not be defaced in any way.

Sanctions

As homework is an essential part of school life, it is reasonable to expect that all students will make an honest effort to complete it satisfactorily. Situations may arise from time to time which prevent students having their homework done. Naturally, in these cases, no sanctions will apply provided an explanatory note from parents is furnished.

Teachers may impose reasonable sanctions for

- A. Failure to present homework (if not supported by a written credible excuse)
- B. Obvious disinterest in doing homework

A 'Failure to do Homework' slip is available in the Staff Room. Teachers can fill in details of the homework not done and send it to a parent/guardian for signing and return to the teacher. The slip will be filed in the student's file in the Staff Room.