



WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON HOMEWORK

This policy is rooted in the school's fundamental aim to foster in pupils a spirit of self-reliance, independence, co-operation and responsibility and to provide them with skills for life-long learning. Further detailed advice regarding homework and study skills is to be found in the College Diary.

RATIONALE

Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study skills. Homework consolidates and supplements the work done in class and promotes independent learning and creativity. It is only by answering questions for themselves through homework that pupils can properly acquire further Understanding and appreciation of their subject and thereby gain the self-confidence to face the challenges of exams. Unless pupils make the time available for regular and systematic homework it is unlikely that they will be able to reach their full potential in school.

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 reduce pressure on pupils from homework overload.
- To promote the development by pupils of good study habits and effective study skills and to develop their capacity to organise their work.
- To enhance the academic achievements of pupils
- To encourage parents to take an interest in and to share responsibility for their children's work and progress.

POLICY CONTENT

- Each pupil should be assigned a reasonable amount of homework in each subject area on a regular basis, written and oral, including reading.
- The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified by the individual teacher but the cumulative amount will be monitored to ensure that pupils are not overloaded. The class prefect may liaise with the Year Head on this point.
- A balance will be maintained between written/practical work and oral/learning work.
- Teachers will ensure that homework is done and give feedback to pupils as quickly as possible.
- Special consideration will be given to pupils with special educational needs.
- Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work.



- Class teachers will ensure that pupils are familiar with the "How to Study Smarter" section of the College Diary.
- Parents will be informed when pupils do not carry out set homework tasks and detention will be given to a pupil who frequently fails to produce homework once it has been established that they can do it, but don't do it.

The Recommended Time to Be Spent On Homework Varies with the pupil

A rule of thumb amount would seem to suggest:

First Year: 2 hours

Second & Third Years: 2 and a half hours

Transition Years: 2 and a half hours

Fifth & Sixth Years: 3 - 4 hours.

Approaching exam times these hours will increase.

Remember it is not the number of hours your son puts in that counts it is what he puts into the hours. Teachers will teach exam skills and exam technique. The following procedure is suggested with regard to assigning homework by teachers;

1. Adequate time, say 5 minutes should be set aside for assigning homework
2. Write the homework instructions on the whiteboard.
3. Make sure pupils write down their homework correctly into their Diary.
4. Check that the homework has been completed neatly and accurately each class.
5. Take up homework from time to time and check it carefully.
6. Refer to Staff Handbook on suggestions whether to employ self-assessment, peer assessment, comments and/or grades.