

Ardcoil Mhuire

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Ardcoil Mhuire App



Homework Policy



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Homework Policy

In Ardscoil Mhuire homework is seen as an essential part of the teaching and learning process and is a follow up to work done in the classroom. It may consist of written assignments, learning of material covered in class, research activities, practical or creative tasks.

The main focus of homework is to promote retention of information and application of skills that are taught in class. Teachers assign appropriate homework to students and ensure that each student records their homework in their journal. Homework completion and the performance of students is monitored and recorded by teachers. The success criterion of the policy is that teachers observe effective learning and achievement in class and exams due to homework completion.

Goals

- To revise and reinforce work done in class.
- To reinforce literacy and numeracy skills.
- To encourage reflection.
- To help teachers recognise the strengths and weaknesses of students and to indicate where improvements can be made.
- To assess/evaluate progress of students.
- To encourage students to work independently, to organise and make proper use of their time, and to develop good study habits.
- To give students the opportunity, when possible, to carry out their own research.
- To encourage parents/guardians to take an interest, and share responsibility for, their child's work and progress.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management

- Ensure the policy is drawn up, developed and evaluated at regular intervals.
- Approve policy and support its implementation.

Staff

- Develop and implement policy.
- Assign and review homework.
- Ensure assigned task is recorded in journal.
- Give students direction and help with homework/study skills.
- Give time to first year students at the end of the class to begin their homework.
- Provide feedback to students. Written comments are given as feedback on returned assignments and verbal feedback is given to students and to parents/guardians at parent teacher meetings.
- Inform parents/guardians if students consistently fail to do homework, by means of a note in their journal or through communication from the year head.

Parents/Guardians

- Monitor homework and journal regularly.
- Parents/guardians of junior cycle students are requested to sign journal weekly.
- Provide necessary support and encouragement for completion of homework.
- Provide suitable conditions for homework.
- See that adequate time is spent on homework and that homework is completed.
- Contact school if there are consistent difficulties with homework.
- If for any reason a student is unable to do homework an explanatory note/letter from parent/guardian is required.

- Communicate with teachers at parent teacher meetings.
- Parents should ensure that part-time jobs held by students do not interfere with the full and proper completion of homework.

Students

- Responsibility lies with students to complete homework on time.
- Students should present well prepared homework and co-operate with the teacher.
- Homework may consist of written, oral, aural and/or revision work. A balanced approach is necessary.
- Students are encouraged to draw up a study timetable – length of time required will vary with age/level. Regular revision of course work is essential and an integral part of homework.
- Homework is to be done carefully and consistently. Copied or carelessly done homework is not acceptable.
- Students who are absent from class due to school matches, medical/dental appointments are expected to find out from their peers what homework was set and make a reasonable attempt to complete it on time.
- Students should ensure that part-time jobs held by students do not interfere with the full and proper completion of homework.
- The school offers limited after school study places to students, for an annual fee, to facilitate the completion of homework and revision.

Duration of Homework

Time management is an important skill. 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.

Year	Hours per school day on homework and revision
1st Year	1 to 2
2nd Year	2
3rd Year	2 to 3
Transition Year	Variable in accordance with project work

5th Year	3
6th Year	3 to 4

Due to the new Junior Cycle programme some subjects may require some of this time to be spent on research activities for classroom based assessments.

Expectations Regarding Homework

- Homework consolidates work done in class. It is also a means to reinforce work and a method of encouraging repetition in order to promote learning.
- The school expects that all homework will be completed on time and to the best of the student's ability.
- All homework given is to be recorded by students in their journal.
- Students are encouraged to spread their homework evenly through the week so as to minimise the risk of overload on any given night.
- Differentiated homework will be assigned when deemed appropriate. The tasks assigned will be appropriate to the needs and ability of the student.
- Parents are encouraged to continue to support their child in the completion of homework.

Use of School Journal

- The school journal is an important means of communication between school and home. It is essential that each student has her school journal in class at all times. This journal is not a personal diary and should not be treated as such.
- All homework assignments should be entered into the journal at the end of each class.
- Parents/guardians of first, second and third years are requested to check and sign the journal on a weekly basis. Students do well when parents take an interest in their homework. It is the encouragement that makes the difference.

- Parents/guardians will be informed through a note in the school journal if students fail to complete homework.

Assessment for Learning

Students look mainly to teachers for a response on the quality of their work. Effective marking and feedback are fundamental to helping students make progress. Teachers check homework on a regular basis.

A variety of methods are used to correct homework, e.g.

- Teacher correction
- Class correction
- Class discussion
- Peer and self-assessment
- Comment only marking

Some items of homework (and classwork) may be checked by students themselves under the direction of a teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for students.

Feedback and Reporting to Parents

- All homework given is recorded by students in their journal and a record of non-completed homework is also in the journal for parents to view.
- The school reports to parents/guardians on the progress of students and indeed reporting is a crucial part of the relationship between school and parents/guardians.
- Twice/thrice yearly written reports are sent to parents/guardians and these reports can be reassuring and supportive for the parents/guardians of our students.

- Parent/teacher meetings offer valuable opportunities for the school to present more comprehensive assessments of progress. As well as allowing a focus on progress achieved, such meetings provide an opportunity to mention areas that need specific attention and to indicate what needs to be done to improve student performance.

Review

The Homework Policy is reviewed by teachers, students and parents as part of the overall school policy review, which takes place every two to three years, or as issues arise throughout the school year. Progress regarding the implementation and success of the policy is regularly discussed among teachers.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Doherty', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

19/6/2019