

## **Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré**

### **Policy on Homework**

This Policy is in keeping with our Mission Statement which recognises the worth of each individual while preparing the student for a meaningful life by maximising their potential.

#### **Rationale for the Policy**

Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process. The benefits include:

- The development of sound study skills
- Consolidation of work done in class
- Promotion of independent learning and creativity
- Feedback to teacher on how pupils have understood the lesson
- The development of writing skills
- Improvement to examination technique

Parents expect homework. The amount of homework influences their perception of the school. The completion of homework increases work ethic and enhances the learning environment. The lack of homework with books not arriving home gives a negative impression of the school to parents which in turn is picked up by the wider community.

#### **Goals of the Policy**

1. To ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across the school.
2. To ensure an equitable distribution of study time for each subject.
3. To reduce pressure on students as a result of homework overlap.
4. To enhance the academic achievements of the student and to evaluate progress.
5. To encourage parents to take an interest in and share responsibility for their child's work and progress.
6. To foster a culture of continuous revision among students.

## **Policy Content**

- Each student will be assigned homework regularly in each subject area
- A rough time guide and amount of work will be suggested / considered by each department group – See Appendix 1
- A balance will be maintained between written / practical work and oral / learning work
- Homework will be corrected and a feedback given to students
- Consideration for pupils with special education needs will be made
- Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class
- Pupils will be guided in homework / study skills
- Records of homework should be recorded by student in the diary on a daily basis
- Teachers should record non-delivery of homework in the diary and this should be signed by parents
- Regular tests and assessments will be given and recorded by the teacher
- Sanctions will be applied to students who consistently fail to produce satisfactory work

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

### **Board of Management:**

- To ensure Policy is developed and evaluated from time to time
- To provide input into the development of the Policy
- To approve the Policy
- To receive reports from Principal on implementation of the Policy

### **Management Team:**

i.e. Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principals, Year Heads and Management of Learning Coordinator.

To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the Policy – see Appendix 2.

### **Staff / Subject Teacher**

- To issue homework regularly and ensure that homework is written into Journal
- Implement the Policy, review and correct homework assignments and provide feedback to the pupils.
- To keep records of students progress.
- To advise students on homework / study skills.
- Keep records of students who fail to deliver homework and apply agreed sanctions.

**Special Needs / Resource Students** – Take extra care to ensure that homework is written up in the Journal to remind students as well as assist parents and resource teachers to work with the pupil. In monitoring homework insist that a genuine effort has been made. If not sanctions should apply and discipline structures should be followed.

### **Pastoral Care Personnel** i.e. Guidance, Tutors etc.

- To monitor the effects of the Policy and to identify students experiencing difficulty.
- To provide support and guidance especially for those experiencing difficulty.
- To liaise with subject teachers, especially in relation to consideration for students with special educational needs.

### **Parents / Guardians**

- To support the school Policy
- To provide suitable conditions for homework
- To check that homework is done to the highest standard for that pupil
- To see that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework
- To monitor Journal for teacher comments on homework

### **Students**

- To do homework set including oral / learning and written / practical
- To present all homework properly and on time
- To record homework in the Journal

### **Implementation Procedure**

1. Each subject department will develop and agree guidelines on the amount of homework that is suitable for each year /class group. The amount will be reviewed at regular department / subject meetings – see Appendix 1.
2. Resource / Learning Support will liaise with teachers on realistic expectations and level of homework for special needs pupils

**Notification to teachers re Resource** – Students availing of Resource will be indicated on Roll Books with notation ‘R’. Teachers can then consult Special Needs Coordinator to find out which Resource Teacher to deal with in relation to a pupil.

### **Performance Criteria**

- Goals are achieved
- Good quality homework is being presented
- Parents and Pupils are satisfied with the effectiveness of the Policy
- Reduction in stress / pressure on pupils in relation to homework

### **Acceptable School Sanctions**

1. Oral warning with note in journal – extra homework
2. Punishment exercise (not writing of rules) plus homework
3. Liaison with Tutor and discussion with pupil about homework
4. Liaison with Year Head – detention / punishment
5. Liaison with Management of Learning Coordinator – discussion with pupil - standard letter sent home

### **Monitoring the Implementation**

- Department / Subject teachers meet once a term to monitor, implementation and review time allocation / amount of work
- Year Heads / Tutors meet approximately every three weeks to monitor students
- Principal / Year Heads meet regularly to monitor progress

### **Reporting**

- Department / Subject Group report at staff meetings
- Principal reports to the Board of Management
- Part of annual report at end of term

## Appendix 1

### **Amount of Homework**

Homework content varies from subject to subject. However, the following is the suggested time each evening to be spent on homework for each year group:-

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>One and a half hours</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Two hours</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Two and a half hours</b>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Three to three and a half hours</b>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Three to three and a half hours</b>