



## Homework Policy

### **Our Vision**

To create a progressive learning environment of the highest quality where our students grow to become independent, respectful and caring women of integrity who live by Christian values and Dominican principles.

### **Our Mission**

The mission statement of Dominican College Wicklow is: *Finding 'Truth' through the education of the Whole Person.*

### **Introduction**

Homework is considered a valuable component of the learning experience for every student in Dominican College Wicklow. Homework is understood as a valuable part of student learning, and helps to build self-esteem and confidence in their own learning processes among students. This policy has been devised through a process of consultation between students, parents, staff and the Board of Management.

### **Purpose of Homework**

- Homework is an essential aspect of embedding the curriculum and helps to develop appropriate knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes in students. Homework should support students' understanding of a subject and develop students' research skills
- Homework is considered a valuable aspect of learning and student self-motivation and self-management
- Homework aims to reinforce learning / work done in class
- Homework aims to prepare students for future learning
- To embed & consolidate learning
- To encourage independent enquiry / study / work / evaluation by the student
- To develop students' skills in planning, organisation, research, critical thinking, reflection and independent learning
- Differentiated homework allows all students to obtain success, encompassing a wide range of academic challenge ranging from what is essential for all students to know / understand / do to extension exercises to provide depth of learning for some.

### **Format**

Homework can take many forms including, but not limited to, the following:

- Reading
- Writing
- Practical work e.g. designing or making an item / model / sample
- Project work
- Practise exercises e.g. spellings / essays / revision
- Research: online / other sources e.g. library / interviewing



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- Oral work
- Aural work
- Rote learning / memorisation.
- Differentiated homework may be given to students i.e. not all students may be instructed to complete the same homework questions / tasks. This is to facilitate success by students who range in academic ability / performance.

### **Procedures**

- Teachers assign homework during most lessons. The homework should be appropriate to the age, level and ability of students and may take a variety of formats
- Homework expectations will be clearly explained by the teacher and students will have an opportunity to clarify the homework tasks if in doubt
- The homework assigned will have an appropriate level of challenge for all students and have a clear purpose
- Homework must be written correctly by students into their homework journals which should be checked regularly by parents. Parents / guardians should check that homework is completed and sign the student homework journal weekly
- Where homework is posted by a teacher on Edmodo or another learning platform, the student must note in her journal to check that learning platform for homework assigned
- Homework must be completed by students. Students should apply their best effort to all homework. In case when homework is not completed a note from the student's parent / guardian is required in the student's journal and the teacher keeps a record of same
- If homework is not being done consistently, the class teacher must write a note in homework journal to be signed at home by parents / guardians
- In the case of homework not being completed on three occasions in one subject, the subject teacher will put the student on a lunchtime detention. Where this problem persists, the subject teacher initially may contact the student's parent / guardian to discuss the matter. Further to this the Year Head may contact home to discuss the matter or arrange a meeting to deal with the problem
- It is the student's responsibility to ensure that homework is completed on time and brought to the relevant class. The student should ask for guidance / help from the teacher if needed
- The teacher keeps a record of all homework assigned, attempted, completed and work not attempted. The teacher gives quality feedback to each student (e.g. verbal / written feedback) to acknowledge the student's effort, what she has done well and also suggests how the homework might be improved.

### **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, spend appropriate time and effort on homework in a quiet, warm, ventilated, well-organised study area.



## **Time Allocation**

Homework given by teachers must be realistic and open to discussion with students / teachers / parents.

The following is a general guideline:

- First Year - 1.5 hours per night
- Second Year - 2 hours per night
- Third Year - 2.5 hours per night
- Transition Year - Variable, depending on Project Work / subject
- Fifth Year - 3 hours per night
- Sixth year - 3 hours per night

## **Marking and Follow Up**

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

- 1 In class-teacher questions
- 2 Students correct homework from whiteboard
- 3 Homework taken up and individually corrected by the teacher
- 4 Peer assessment in class
- 5 Student self-assessment in class
- 6 Presentations in class
- 7 Project work
- 8 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.

## **Homework Support**

**After-School Study:** After-School supervised study is provided for two hours from Monday to Thursday inclusive. Parents who wish to enrol their daughters in After School Study should obtain and return a completed application form and relevant fee to the school's Admin office.

**Homework Club:** It is the responsibility of students to attempt all homework to the best of their ability and to the highest standard possible for them. Some students will benefit from additional peer tutor support to help explain homework to them and assist them with their learning. Homework Club therefore operates once a week at lunchtime and is facilitated by the Deputy Principal and peer tutors in TY for Junior Cycle students. All students are informed about Homework Club and invited to participate in order to take responsibility for their own learning and academic achievement. This includes both students who may be struggling with a particular subject or aspect of a subject as well as those who wish to achieve high academic success and are keen to explore with peer tutors how they can further achieve such success. Regular attendance at Homework Club is required once registered, and parental written consent is also required.



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**Homework Support** sessions are facilitated by the Principal on a regular basis on Thursday evenings after school for one hour. This is designed to provide targeted support for a small number of students who consistently do not present homework, or present homework that is consistently incomplete or below the standard expected of the student. The student is afforded an individual opportunity during the Homework Support session to catch up on all homework missed, not done or incomplete. The Year Head may refer a student to Homework Support where there is a pattern of lack of effort or underachievement developing by a student.

### **Parental Involvement**

Parental involvement is considered to be key to effective homework and learning by students. Parents are encouraged to:

1. Promote a positive attitude towards homework, and set high yet realistic expectations of their daughters in the completion of homework
2. Support the school's Homework Policy and communicate early with their daughter / and teacher if a relevant problem emerges that merits the attention of the teacher
3. Provide suitable conditions for homework
4. Encourage students to do homework early in the evening
5. Ensure student spends suggested amount of time on homework / study
6. Check homework journal on a regular basis and sign the homework journal weekly
7. Support and help students with homework where possible and appropriate
8. Foster study skills in their daughters and attend information sessions provided by the school to support parents in overseeing study skills and other aspects of school work.

Parents are advised to keep in contact with class teachers / tutor / Year Head if issues arise with their daughter's homework.

Ratified by Board of Management on: 26<sup>th</sup> January 2017

Reviewed by the Board of Management on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2018

Signed by the Chairperson: Lorcan Byrne

Review Period: April 2019