



**St Kieran's College
Secondary School
Kilkenny**

Homework Policy

Introduction

The Homework Policy is a guide for students, teachers and parents on how to improve classroom learning and fulfil students' true potential. It is intended to foster self-discipline, independent learning and encourage students to take responsibility for their own learning.

This Policy arises from feedback received from students in light of their learning experiences throughout the pandemic. The Policy has been drafted following consultation with students, parents and teachers.

School Philosophy and Mission Statement

St Kieran's College, as Ireland's oldest all-boys Catholic Secondary School, continues its founding aim of the pursuit of real excellence in education and formation, in the light of the Gospel, so as to allow all our students to realise the fullness of their potential. Academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally our students are encouraged to strive for all that is possible in the relentless pursuit of perfecting their individual gifts and talents. In so doing they bring to life the joy intended by our motto, "Hiems Transiit", for themselves, those they love and the community where they will live, serve and lead.

Rationale

Homework is defined as the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned learning activities. The objectives of assigning homework to students are the same as teaching in general: to increase the knowledge, understanding and skills of the students.

Homework aims to:

- Provide students with an opportunity to review, consolidate and confirm the knowledge which they have received during the day.
- Allow students an opportunity to work on their own and take responsibility for their own learning.

- Enable teachers to assess progress effectively, challenge pupils and identify areas of student difficulty.
- Provides parents/guardians with information on their sons' progress at school.
- Encourage students to reach their full potential with regard to their academic capabilities.
- Fosters in students positive values such as self discipline, responsibility and an interest in learning which will benefit them throughout their lives.

What do we mean by Homework?

Not all homework is alike in nature, purpose or timing.

Homework may include:

- Written assignments
- Learning assignments, memorizing, note making or mind maps
- Revision work, written or learning.
- Reading, listening or watching subject related material.
- Collecting or researching information.
- Solving problems
- Practical work practice, oral, music, art etc.
- Preparing work, essays, presentations, debates, reports etc.

SEN Students

Teacher's will differentiate homework as appropriate to suit the needs of any SEN students in their class.

Non-completion of Homework / Sanctions

In classes where homework is not completed, an appropriate and consistent sanction should be imposed by the teacher, eg.

- Verbal reprimand
- Written comment in journals
- Relevant extra homework

- Contact parents where necessary
- An individual teacher may detain the student during lunchtime detention.

Persistent non-completion of homework should be formally reported to the Year Head in writing, using the school's 'Report Sheet'. The Year Head will determine the level of sanctions to be imposed.

Recommended regularity and timeframe for homework per subject.

Homework/Revision requirements vary from subject to subject and from Year grouping to Year grouping. In assigning homework, it is important to be cognisant of extra pressure and workload on students, particularly at examination times.

Based on a six subject per day timetable, the following times may be a useful guideline to students and parents.

First Year: 15 mins per subject per night (1 to 1 and a ½ hours)

Second Year: 20 mins per subject per night (1 and a ½ to 2 hours)

Third Year: 20 mins per subject per night (2 to 2 and a ½ hours)

Fifth Year: 30-40 mins per subject per night (2 and a ½ - 3 hours)

Sixth Year: 30-40 mins per subject per night (3 hours + increasing as mock and state exams approach.

Roles and responsibilities

Students

- Complete homework on time.
- Ensure to have homework in class.
- Present homework neatly and in correct copy (organisation).
- Record homework in the school journal within the class period.
- Upload the required homework to Google classroom in the correct format (adobe scan).
- Complete homework to the best of their ability and give adequate time to each subject.
- Should check google classroom daily and be organised with necessary books, copies etc.

- Should meet deadlines as set by teacher
- It is the responsibility of students to present a note of explanation from parents in the event of homework not being completed.

Teachers

- Review homework assignments completed by students.
- Provide feedback on assignments
- Ensure homework is relevant and manageable and differentiated where necessary.
- Ensure work is posted on google classroom.
- Are consistent in the amount of homework they give each night.
- Request students to note work in their diary before the end of each lesson.
- Allow adequate time to communicate and explain homework assignments.
- Provide students with a suggested timeframe for the completion of homework.
- Set out clear expectations and success criteria for homework.
- Keep a record of homework not completed and follow up with parents if it becomes an ongoing issue.

Parents

- Encourage students to achieve their full potential by supporting school policy.
- Ensure an appropriate space in which their son may complete homework without distractions.
- Encourage students to spend sufficient time on homework each night.
- Check and sign homework journals regularly.
- Attend parent-teacher meetings when possible.
- Support the school in any sanctions employed to deal with homework not completed.
- Provide teachers with valid letters of explanation in the event of homework being incomplete or not submitted