

St Augustine's
College, Abbeyside, Dungarvan



Homework Policy

Mission Statement.

St Augustine's College is a caring community, committed to offering all of its students and staff a happy and safe environment in which they can work, learn, pray and play. We endeavour to facilitate the academic, personal, moral, spiritual and social development of each member of our school community. Our aim is to provide a balanced and well-rounded education for all our students.

HOMWORK POLICY

St. Augustine's College believes in the value and purpose of homework. Homework is considered to be an important element in reinforcing the students grasp of material and work covered in class. It allows the teacher to informally assess how well the students have grasped new concepts and allows both the teacher and student to identify the next steps of learning.

We endeavour to ensure that homework is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and guardians.

Parents and guardians have an important role to play in assisting the school with the education of their son/daughter. It can strengthen the partnership in learning between the school and the Parent/Guardian. This policy is also intended to ensure that the importance of family and leisure activities is recognized in the amounts and types of homework given.

Purpose of homework:

- Is an important part of schooling
- Allows for extending, practicing and consolidating class-work
- Helps students learn how to plan and organize their time
- Develops habits of study, concentration and self-discipline
- Strengthens home-school links
- Offers Parents/Guardians some insights into what is being taught in the class-room
- Challenges and extends students.

Homework is most beneficial when:

- It is challenging and purposeful but not so demanding that it has adverse affects on motivation
- It is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis establishing a good routine of home study
- It is marked promptly and accurately
- Is followed by regular feedback to the student.

Homework is corrected in a variety of ways at the discretion of the individual teacher. These methods may include the teacher collecting and correcting it and giving a grade or comment-only marking. It could also consist of the teacher demonstrating in class how the homework should have been completed and students peer or self-correct Alternatively the

teacher gives the students the marking scheme or the list of features of quality” and students peer or self-correct under the supervision of the teacher. The teacher ascertains during such activities how well the students are progressing.

The amount of time a student spends on homework will depend on their age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities including family and cultural obligations. In the interest of our students wellbeing we at

St Augustine’s believe that it is important that students have free time for leisure and physical activities outside of school. Bearing this in mind the school makes the following recommendations as a guide to parents and students:

1st Year	1 – 2 hours per day
2nd Year	1½ - 2 hours per day
3rd Year	2 – 2½ hours per day
T.Y.	Variable in accordance with amount of project work.
5th Year	3 hours per day
6th Year	3+ hours per day including weekends

Excessive levels of work/revision eg.5-6 hrs a night can prove counter-productive and detrimental to the students wellbeing.

This study time should combine:

- Homework (written and oral)
- Revision
- Exam preparation (leading up to exam time)

All students should spend time at home on their homework whether or not work has been assigned. If no homework has been set then students have an obligation to go over material they have recently studied in class to make sure they have fully understood it.

We believe that it is important that students feel comfortable enough to mention to their subject teachers if they are under pressure and if they desire a reasonable extension to submitting a homework essay or project. Also, teachers welcome students telling them if they have a number of tests on a particular day so that the teacher can change the date of a test if possible.

Students who miss class due to matches, medical/dental appointments are expected to find out from their classmates what homework was set by the teacher and to complete it on time.

Students need to learn to be responsible for their work; this is a most important life skill.

In line with the digital strategy for school(Action Plan 2017) where possible homework should recognise the place of technology such as home computers, email and the internet. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

All students must have a homework diary. Homework diaries are very useful to develop organisational skills and time management and to improve home-school communication. As students move into the senior cycle homework demands will increase.

Students are expected to complete homework to the best of their ability at all times.

Policy reviewed and ratified by all partners;

Teaching staff, students, Parent’s Association and the Board of Management in January 2019.

To be reviewed 2021.

