



BALLYCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Homework Policy

- *Approval by the Board of Governors: **JUNE 2016***
- *The implementation of this policy will be monitored by: Senior Management Team*
- *This policy will be reviewed every two years*





INTRODUCTION

Homework is a continuation of the Learning Process experienced in the classroom and carried out, mainly in the home. It has several good educational purposes:

1. It reinforces work done in class.
2. It allows pupils to test their powers of recall and learning, as well as allowing the application of knowledge and understanding to solve problems.
3. It prepares the way for work to be done in future.
4. It encourages self-discipline and time management.
5. It develops pupils' skills as independent learners.
6. It prepares pupils for assessment.
7. It develops links between school and home.

Guidelines (Parents/Pupils)

(a) The amount of homework varies according to Year Group:

Year 8	-	1 hour per night (approx) to
Years 11 and 12	-	2 -3 hours per night.

- (b) Homework may be written or oral learning.
- (c) Pupils should record all homework in the homework diary, in the day that it is due. Class teachers should check that homework has been written into the diary.
Parents should check that homework is adequately completed.
- (d) Form teachers will check the homework diary weekly. Parents should also ensure that it is checked and signed weekly. The homework diary is an important channel of communication between school and home.
- (e) Homework should be done in a room free from distractions.
- (f) Oral/learning tasks are just as important as written tasks.
- (g) Study/revision should also be part of the homework schedule.

Parents can play an important role in pupils' work at home by providing a supportive environment, by encouragement, by assisting in a way that guides pupils towards learning independently and ensuring that all homework is presented at an acceptable standard.



Guidelines (Teachers)

1. Homework should be set regularly and thoughtfully, and be given high status in the way it is monitored and marked as often as is appropriate in all subjects.
2. It should be made relevant to classwork and differentiated where appropriate.
3. Homework may, when appropriate, be peer marked but should always be checked by the subject teacher.
4. Pupils should be aware of the success criteria for each piece of work.
5. Pupils should be aware of how well they carried out their task
6. Teachers should provide formative feedback when appropriate.

Written homework should be:

- a) introduced to a class so that teachers' objectives in setting the work and their criteria for assessing it are clearly understood;
- b) checked on every occasion and marked in accordance with the departmental assessment and homework policies;
- c) returned promptly;
- d) annotated, where written annotation is given, legibly and in a manner that highlights strengths as well as weaknesses and provides clear guidance on how a pupil may improve.

Each department will determine its own specific policy for homework completion, the timing of homework and the different types of homework that should be set. Adherence to this policy will be closely monitored by the Head of Department via departmental monitoring, departmental meetings and centralised record keeping.

Procedures for the non-submission of Homework:

1st Day of missed homework:

- Class teacher will put a note in the homework diary. This should be signed by the pupil's Parent/Carer.
- Class teacher will record the missed homework on SIMs.
- Pupils will be given until the end of registration (9.10 am) the following day to hand in the missed homework.

2nd Day of missed homework: (i.e. work not received by 9.10 am the following day)

- Class teacher will place the pupil in subject detention (break and/or lunch) and offer support to ensure the pupil can complete the work.

Persistent non-completion of homework or non-compliance with the required standards for homework will result in further sanctions being employed as per the school's Positive Behaviour Management Policy.