

**WHOLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK
POLICY
OF**



Tarbert Comprehensive School

Aim

This policy is based on the school's fundamental aim to foster in students a love of learning in a spirit of collegiality and co-operation so that all may reach their full potential.

Rationale

Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study skills. It consolidates and supplements the work done in class and promotes independent learning and creativity.

Homework consists of written, reading and revision work. A balanced approach is necessary between homework, extra-curricular and leisure times.

Goals

1. To foster consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework in the school as a whole.
2. To ensure an equitable distribution of study-time for each subject so as to reduce the pressure on students from homework overload.
3. To promote the development by students of good study habits and effective study skills.
4. To enable students to develop a capacity to organise their own work.
5. To enhance the academic achievements of students.
6. To encourage parents to take an interest in and to share responsibility for their children's work and progress.

Policy

1. Each student will be assigned homework each night in subject areas where it applies.
2. The amount of homework given in each subject area will be decided on and agreed by the subject teachers.
3. Homework will be monitored to ensure that students are not overloaded.
4. A rough time guide will be suggested for each year group.
5. A balance will be maintained between written/practical work and oral/learning work.
6. Teachers will correct homework and give feedback to students.
7. Special consideration will be given to students with special educational needs.
8. The homework set will have meaning and purpose enhancing the work of the class and preparing the foundation for future learning.
9. Students will be given specific training in homework /study skills.
10. Parents will be informed when students do not do the homework assigned to them, this will be done by means of the homework journal.
11. Homework will form part of an on-going assessment of each student.
12. Records of homework, grades and comments will be kept by each teacher.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management

1. To ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time.
2. To consider the policy.
3. To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy.

Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads

1. To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy.
2. To monitor the implementation of the policy.

Subject Teachers

1. To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students.
2. To keep records of homework set.
3. To instruct students in homework / study skills.

Pastoral Care Team (Class Teachers, Guidance and Special Needs Personnel)

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

The Role of Parents

1. To support school policy.
2. To provide suitable conditions for homework.
3. To ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework.
4. To sign the homework journal on a weekly basis.
5. To ensure that if a student is absent he / she makes every effort to keep homework and notes up to date
6. To contact the school if there are genuine difficulties with homework. The school diary may be used for this communication

The Role of the Student

1. To record in the journal/diary when homework is assigned
2. To do the homework set, oral /learning/reading and written/ practical.
3. To present written homework properly and meet agreed deadlines
4. To present explanatory notes in the journal from parents when work is not done for whatever reason.
5. Students are encouraged to draw up a study timetable

Implementation Procedures

1. Each subject department will develop agreed guidelines on the amount of homework and the balance between written/practical work and oral/learning work that is desirable for each year group.
2. Each Subject Department will develop guidelines on the homework /study skills appropriate for that subject.
3. The Year Head and Class Teacher of each year group, in consultation with the relevant subject teachers, will suggest a homework schedule and time guide for each year group.
4. The Guidance Counsellor and Special needs Team will advise on designing homework for students with special needs.

Success Criteria

1. Good quality homework is being presented.
2. Less pressure on students with regard to homework.
3. Parents, students and teachers are satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy.
4. Goals are being attained.

Monitoring Procedures

1. Class Teachers and Year Heads will conduct on- going monitoring through informal discussion with students and subject teachers, and through spot checks , and will note feedback from students , teachers and parents.
2. Subject Departments will review implementation at department meetings.
3. Principal and Deputy Principal will discuss the policy implementation at Year Head meeting.
4. Principal will keep the Board informed on the implementation of the policy.

Reviewing the Policy.

The policy will be reviewed in 2018, taking into account the views and experiences of teachers, students and parents. An analysis of the school records will help to assess the impact on student's progress with particular consideration being given to students with special educational needs.

Ratified and reviewed by the Board of Management on 10/3/15

Review Scheduled for March 2018