



PATRICIAN SECONDARY SCHOOL

NEWBRIDGE, CO. KILDARE, W12 XV38

Meánscoil Phádraig, Droichead Nua, Co. Chill Dara.



HOMework AND STUDY POLICY

The Patrician Secondary School as a Christian Community commits itself to the development of all its members in an environment of co-operation and mutual respect.

Mission Statement

Rationale:

Homework and study play an important role in students' educational development. It reinforces the work done in class and helps to develop self-discipline and responsibility in a culture of self-guided learning to aid assessment for learning. Along with bringing the home and school closer together, homework plays a part in helping students to develop to their full potential. It should be a positive experience. This is in line with the school's vision to foster the pursuit of academic excellence and to recognise the unique value and contributions of each individual.

Homework and Study are valuable for the following reasons:

- It helps students to progress through learning outside the classroom.
- It allows students to develop the practice of independent learning without the constant presence of the teacher or other students. This way of working is important at the later stages of secondary education and thereafter.
- It enforces valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom and helps with the absorption of classroom learning.
- It allows students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- Homework and study can provide the quiet conditions needed for creative and constructive work.
- It can involve parents/guardians and others in students' work for their mutual benefit.
- It encourages opportunities for long-term research and other work.
- It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines.
- It enables teachers to evaluate students' work and to assess the standard.
- It encourages students to seek opportunities for long-term research.

Homework/Assignments may involve the following:

- Reading/writing/learning
- Accessing online materials to research a topic
- Carrying out a project. This may involve primary/secondary research for an individual or group project
- Observing/recording
- Making a model
- Watching a TV programme/YouTube clip related to a study topic.
- Completing an exercise to practice, reinforce or apply aspects of class work, e.g. writing up practical work or notes.
- Completing project work
- Revising or taking notes on material covered in class
- Aural and oral skills development

How the school helps students to organise their homework/study

1. Students are given a *homework journal* at the beginning of the year. This is an important resource for students to have for the following reasons:
 - It is an important resource in which students make note of tasks to complete and deadlines to meet.
 - It provides additional information about the school.
 - It acts as a communication link between students, teachers and parents/guardians
2. Study - Supervised evening study is provided for 3rd, 5th and 6th Year students.
3. Study skills workshops are provided by our Guidance Counsellors and by outside agencies to help students develop strong homework and study habits.
4. Online support and resources e.g. Google Classroom, will be used to facilitate distance learning if/when necessary.

Assignment of Homework/Study for students with special educational needs:

- Any relevant information relating to individual students with special educational needs is given to staff by school management and/or the S.E.N. team.
- Each student's experience and grasp of a subject is naturally going to be different. We don't expect the same standards from all students. We encourage each student to develop to the best of his ability and to engage with his subjects at the appropriate academic level.
- It may be the case that a student is having difficulty within the subject area or is experiencing other difficulties. If these difficulties persist the issue should be referred to the Student Support Team or S.E.N. Coordinator as appropriate.
- Differentiated homework for students with varying levels of ability is encouraged.

Guidance for Students:

"Effort spent on homework is a stronger correlate of academic achievement than time spent on homework (Canadian Council on Learning, 2009)."

Use your journal:

This helps you remember exactly what the teacher asked you to do. It is a reference and record of the great work that you are doing.

Where?

Having a quiet and organised workspace at home or in school helps you to focus and concentrate on your assignments and study.

When?

Doing your assignments at a certain time of the day (whether it's before or after dinner for example) leads to consistency of work and also frees up your day to do other things.

Have high expectations and set targets:

It is important that students set clear, realistic targets for themselves. Have sensible, achievable goals.

Remember: Goal setting builds confidence. It creates a sense of pride and understanding that the effort put in was worthwhile.

Organisation:

Good organisational habits e.g. proper use of the student locker and student journal, are a key component of successful homework/study completion.

Guidance for Parents/Guardians:

As parents/guardians, you play an important role in supporting an environment where the student can complete all homework tasks effectively. Establishing a homework and study routine will help to encourage him to view this as a daily and necessary exercise.

Involvement:

Ask about assignments and school activities. Give encouragement and make yourself available to help if needed. Support his endeavors.

Potential:

Help the student to realise his potential. Discuss his goals and what he hopes to achieve. Discuss ways to approach the work involved to reach that level.

Positivity and Praise:

Praise their work and efforts. Acknowledge credits and good test results. Remind them that you are there to support and encourage them.

Communication:

Attend parent-teacher meetings. Talk to other parents. Talk/email or use the student journal to communicate with teachers if the student has an issue/query with assignments. Regularly check homework journal. This is the primary mode of communication between school and home. Parents are also encouraged to attend parent-information evenings and Parent Association meetings.

Guidance for Teachers:

Homework may be assessed by a variety of means. Teachers should explain homework expectations clearly and allow time for each student to record homework and deadlines in the school journal.

Marking/grading may not always be appropriate but feedback to students on how to improve their work may involve focusing on specific aspects of the assignment and the relative merits/demerits thereof.

Teachers aim to give students effective feedback on tasks in a timely manner in order to inform the successful completion of subsequent tasks.

A variety of Assessment for Learning and Assessment of Learning practices are encouraged.

Things to consider when setting homework/assignments:

- Quality rather than quantity
- Awareness of the ability of the student
- Do I have to give homework/assignments tonight?
- Share successful assignment ideas with colleagues
- Can I link the assignment to previously covered material, or to other subjects?

Research has shown that for assignments/homework to be effective they should have:

- A clear purpose
- Clear, written instructions
- Success criteria included
- A clear link to classwork
- An achievable outcome
- Timely constructive feedback

Homework Monitoring

Teachers could praise exceptional efforts made by students on their homework. Some forms of praise could include:

- verbal recognition
- display of work/use as an example
- reward with a credit
- Gradam Acadúil

Where homework is not presented the teacher should deal with each case individually. In the first instance teachers should apply their own sanction. Some of these sanctions (in no particular order) could include:

- verbal warning
- written note in journal to be signed by parent/guardian
- classroom detention
- additional exercises
- phone call to parent/guardian

If a teacher suspects that there is an underlying problem, they are advised to contact the relevant Year Head. A student who willfully and consistently refuses to attempt homework will be referred to the Year Head/Assistant Year Head by the subject teacher. They will work with the student to develop a positive attitude towards homework and study. If at that point, the student continues to willfully refuse to attempt homework, sanctions will apply as per the school's Code of Behaviour.

Evaluation

This Homework Policy will be reviewed on a biennial basis through staff and departmental planning and collaboration, (and/or if any issues arise during the school year).

Ratified by the Board of Management on: 7th September 2021

Signed (Chairperson): Pat O'Leary

Signed (Board Member): Brenda McHale