



Policy and Practice



Respect

Integrity

Compassion

Engagement

Ethics

Inclusion

Home learning June 19

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education."

1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools

Parents, carers and other family members can and do make a real difference to children's education. When parents and schools work together, children do better. Children learn a great deal at school and parents can add to that learning by supporting their children at home. For example, showing an interest in their homework and talking to them about it really helps them to learn. With support and encouragement, children find it easier to get into the homework habit.

We expect all children to work hard throughout the school day and therefore their time outside school should principally be for extra-curricular activities, rest and relaxation. **We also believe that a carefully balanced home learning programme is beneficial for children for the following reasons:**

- To give parents opportunities to be directly involved in their child's learning
- To reinforce the partnership between home and school
- To consolidate skills learnt in school and give opportunities to extend learning
- To take more responsibility for their own learning
- To practise and build on what they have learned at school
- To develop confidence to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems
- To develop a greater sense of individual responsibility and independence in learning
- To learn and work independently in the future.

Research over the decades on homework is clear in terms of the type of home learning that has a positive impact on pupil learning and the type of work set that does not. We are well aware of the important role parents play in supporting their child's learning. One of the key indicators of a pupils' success at school is the level to which parents and carers engage in what their child is learning.

As a school we will strive to ensure home learning tasks will not

- Add unnecessary stress and pressure into already busy family lives
- Take time away from valuable family time, or time spent engaged in extra-curricular activities which are enriching and beneficial to a young person
- Be issued to a young person if they do not have the skills or resources to complete homework

Home learning tasks should have a specific purpose i.e.:

- To consolidate and develop skills learned in class
- To help instil and develop good study habits
- To apply skills in a real life setting
- To raise attainment and confidence in our young people
- To engage parents in the learning of their children

Home learning works best when pupils understand the purpose of the task and value the feedback from staff.

BGE and Senior phase:

There will naturally be a different focus on home learning depending on whether the pupil is in the BGE phase or senior phase:

BGE S1 & 2: Pupils will be issued home learning tasks that instil the good habits needed to be successful in the senior phase. This could be through the development and consolidation of key skills, or revision of important knowledge that will be needed in future courses.

BGE S3: In S3, pupils will have made their subject choices for their National qualifications. Therefore home learning will start to take more focus on content and knowledge, and may start to introduce the skills required in passing National assessments.

Senior S4, S5 & S6: Pupils will be expected to complete home learning tasks that will help them in passing their qualifications. For example, past paper questions, revising for tests, learning content required.

The role of parents and carers:

Parents have an important role to play in supporting this approach to Home Learning. Simply sending their child to their room with a pencil and their homework book does not work. For our pupils to achieve success we need parents to take an interest in what their children are learning and how they can improve.

Even if you have little time, or don't know much about the subject or level your child is studying, you can still be involved in many ways:

- Provide a positive and encouraging attitude to your child's learning
- Encourage your child to discuss what they have learned in school (one 15 minute conversation per week about a young person's learning has a significant, positive impact)
- Provide a quiet place to study
- Help your child draw up a study plan, which factors in time for "work, rest, and play"
- More advice is available from the Parent Council – accessible on the school website

Its quality that matters, not quantity - the kind of homework your child does is often more important than the amount.

Details of each faculty's home learning expectations can be found on the school website.