

**Homework Policy for Students of
Terence MacSwiney Community College
&
Gaelcholáiste Mhic Shuibhne**

Homework Policy

This set of summary guidelines applies to the school community including students, parents, teachers, SNAs and other staff. We encourage the active involvement and participation of all in developing coherent approaches to this important aspect of student development.

What is Homework?

Homework is work assigned by a subject teacher for completion by the student outside of school time. It may be

- Written.
- Oral.
- Aural.
- Reading.
- Project-based work.
- Revision work.
- Digital.
- Illustrations for practical subjects.

Why is it important?

Homework is a challenging and purposeful activity that will enhance pupil motivation. It should be coordinated, regular, marked promptly and accurately and followed with relevant feedback. Homework should be based on prior knowledge and what was already covered in class.

Rationale

The purpose of this set of guidelines is to inform the school community of the school's position regarding homework. The aim is to assist and encourage students to develop to their full potential in an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect.

- 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.
- Furthermore, it helps to ensure that a student is interpreting questions properly and highlights where difficulties lie.
- It strengthens Home/School links and offers those at home insights into what is being taught in the classroom.
- The final responsibility for satisfactory completion of homework rests with the learner
- Homework is a form of study, preparing for and developing examination skills.

Homework Club

This is a supervised group of students who can complete their homework in school after school hours.

If homework is incomplete at the end of supervised time it must be completed at home. It is not the responsibility of the supervisor to check homework, though help may be given at the discretion of the supervisor.

The school will issue times and dates as to when the Homework club operates. All students are encouraged to attend the Homework Club.

Blended Learning

Blended learning is an approach to education that combines online educational materials and opportunities for interaction online with traditional class based classroom methods. In TMS and GMS, teachers and students are using Teams to deliver online learning. Other online platforms include Studyclix, Zoom, Books, Sketches school, iMovie, Kahoot, Garage Band, Book creator, Keynote and classroom.

To enable students to engage with blended learning, teachers will

Teachers will	Why?
Teach all groups how to use online platforms.	To enhance student confidence and support their learning.
Trial test online platforms with class groups.	To help students to access the platforms.
Regularly integrate these platforms into classwork and homework.	So students become familiar with their use.

To enable students to engage with blended learning, students will

Students	Why?
Engage with the online platforms.	To ensure continuity of their learning.
Adhere to ETB and school ICT policies.	To ensure that there is safe and respectful communication for all.

Expectations

Teacher expectations

Expectation	Reason
Students record homework.	To remind students what homework they are to complete after school.
Students make an honest effort to complete homework fully and on time.	This is important to progress with classwork and learning.
Students have adequate facilities to enable them to do homework.	Adequate facilities allow the student to focus and positively engage with the learning.
Students absent due to school related activities (e.g. matches, debates etc.) must ensure that homework set in their classes is completed.	This will ensure that a student does not miss out on the learning.
If absent for any other reason students should catch up on work missed.	This will ensure that a student does not miss out on the learning.
Students will present books, homework, relevant materials and all work for class.	It is important to be prepared for each class.
Parents/Guardians will support students in carrying out assigned homework	Parental or guardian support and involvement can have a positive impact on the learning.
Parents/Guardians will examine the homework journal regularly.	It is important for parents or guardians to be involved and aware of what work students are assigned and completing.
Parents will write an explanation note if homework is incomplete or not done because of a particular domestic issue.	It is beneficial for staff, students and parents to have good communication regarding school and home life.

Students may expect that:

Expect	Reason
More time for homework explanation.	In order for students to understand what to do.
Opportunity to ask the teacher for help or greater explanation.	Ensure students are not stuck on their homework. Teacher is aware of what you are finding difficult. Opportunity for teacher to give a personal explanation. Greater understanding.
Reasonable homework.	Ensure students don't become overwhelmed by the workload. Also, students have after school activities and hobbies.
Less writing and more projects, Oral work and visuals.	Already writing a lot in class and students learn in different ways.
Choices & different ways of answering questions.	Opportunity to successfully complete homework and enjoy the process.
Greater device use.	Enjoyable. Variety. Change.
Provide a note from a parent or guardian if you are finding your homework difficult or for other reasons.	This will inform the teacher of your difficulty completing the homework or extenuating circumstances.
Teams message informing teacher of homework difficulty.	Inform teacher of challenges and allows for in class revision and support.
Positive feedback from teacher.	It encourages you to keep going and it also builds your confidence.
Opportunity to revise and put corrections into practice.	Learning from mistakes and an opportunity to progress in the learning.

Parent & Guardian may expect:

Expect	Reason
To be requested to check journals regularly and to sign relevant comments.	To keep informed of their child's progress.
To be kept informed of difficulties regarding homework.	So the student can be properly supported.
To be given the opportunity to discuss homework problems with relevant teacher.	To promote effective communication.

Duration of Homework & Study

There is a large amount of academic research to show that homework has a positive and significant effect on student achievement. The studies are clear; students who **regularly** complete homework will perform better academically. In TMS and GMS we want all students to achieve their academic potential. Therefore, positive engagement with homework **throughout the whole week** including study and homework at the weekend is advised for every class group.

Year Group	1 st Year	2 nd Year	3 rd Year	TY	5 th Year	6 th Year
Homework (Mon – Thur)	1.5 hours per night	2.5 hours per night	3 hours per night	As per Programme requirements	3 hours per night	4 hours per night
Weekend Study	1.5 hours	2.5 hours	3 hours	As per Programme requirements	3 hours	4 hours

Non-Completion of Homework

A student that has a valid reason for non-completion of homework should have an explanatory note from a parent/guardian dated and signed in their journal. The student should show the note to all relevant teachers. Sanctions for the non-completion of homework that is unexplained can include a verbal warning, a request to complete the homework, a note in the student's journal, or lunchtime detention. Failure to complete homework on a regular basis will be communicated to parents/guardians by the relevant subject teachers.

School Supports for the Completion of Homework.

School supports for the completion of homework include supervised study and a homework club. Additionally, supports are offered by the School Completion Programme, AEN team and all subject teachers.

Rewards

Students who diligently complete homework consistently may be referred to their Year Head and be rewarded for their continued efforts.