

Moyle Park College



Homework Policy

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1. Purpose

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and learning continues through the completion of homework. Homework also plays an important part in helping students to develop to their full potential and should be a positive experience.

“Homework has a role in consolidating work done in school, in allowing pupils to work on their own initiative and in fostering self reliance”

Introducing Your Second level School, ASTI/NPC, 2005:20.

The overarching intention of this policy is to get students, teachers and parents/guardians involved in the completion of good quality homework that best fits the ability of each student.

The **Moyle Park College School Plan 2018 - 2023**, along with the **School Improvement Plan** focuses on Student Engagement and Motivation. The two main areas that were identified with regard to student engagement and motivation are homework and the use of the school journal. A **SMART** target was set that 70% of students will record more than 4 homework entries into the journal every day.

2. Nature of homework

- The school operates a system whereby subject teachers set homework in class. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes and topics of study.
- Homework may be assigned to a class or group within a class or individual student according to student needs. It may be short term (i.e. due for the next class) or long term e.g. the writing of an essay, the completion of a project or a digital assignment online.
- Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. Teachers aim to return marked homework to the students as soon as possible to reinforce that topic of work while the exercise is fresh in the students' minds.
- In order to achieve, students must be prepared to spend time studying and revising as well as doing their homework.

3. Rationale

Homework is 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 and the external discipline of the timetable. This way of working is vital in the later stages of secondary education and thereafter.
- Homework can provide the quiet conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
- It enforces the valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom and helps the absorption of classroom learning.
- It allows students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- It involves parents/guardians and others in students' work for their mutual benefit.
- It encourages opportunities for long-term research and other work.
- It forms an important part of students' notes.
- It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines.
- It forms a link with the study techniques crucial to success at secondary school.
- It enables teachers to evaluate students' work and to assess their standard.
- It can help with preparatory work for the next day's class.
- Learning is strongly reinforced if students revise in the evening what was learnt during the day.
- Schools which set and correct homework regularly achieve better examination results.

4. How Parents/Guardians can help with Homework

- Encouraging a positive attitude is most beneficial and parents/guardians can play a major role in this.
- Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not left to the last minute or forgotten. Parents/guardians play a crucial role in shaping good attitudes and habits in relation to homework.
- Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions (space, light, heat, quiet, ventilation) at home.
- Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.

- Valuable learning comes from attempting as well as completing work. Students benefit from parental/guardian support and encouragement in persevering with difficult assignments.
- Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the subject teachers or the Form Tutor if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve.
- Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework diary; a space is provided for your weekly signature.

5. Expectations of Parents/Guardians:

- In line with the [National Parents Council Post Primary \(NPCpp\) recommendations](#), it is expected that;
 - Parents/Guardians, where possible, should support students in carrying out assigned homework.
 - Parents/Guardians will check the homework journal and vsware regularly.
 - Parents/Guardians will provide an explanatory note if homework is incomplete or not done for legitimate reasons.

6. Parents/Guardians may expect:

- To be kept informed of difficulties regarding homework
- To be given the opportunity to discuss homework problems with the relevant teacher.

7. Expectations of Students:

- Students record homework in the homework journal.
- Students make an honest effort to complete homework fully and on time.
- Students have adequate facilities to enable them to do homework.
- Students absent due to school-related activities (e.g.matches, debates etc) must ensure that homework set in their classes is completed.
- It is the responsibility of the student to complete the homework to the best of their ability in line with their teachers' expectations.

“Pupils will be happier going to school if they have completed their homework in a satisfactory fashion”

Introducing Your Second level School, ASTI/NPC, 2005:20.

8. Students may expect that:

- Homework in each subject area will not take up an unreasonable amount of time.
- Adequate allowance is made for time-consuming homework such as essays, projects etc.
- Homework is related to course work.
- Clear instructions are given for homework tasks.
- Homework is regularly checked and feedback to students is constructive.
- Adequate time is given for the recording of homework

9. Suggestions for Students regarding organising homework

- All homework and related instructions should be carefully recorded in the Student Journal, the due date noted, and when the work is completed a tick should be entered in the assigned column.
- Ask questions, when necessary, to clarify the assignment requirements.
- When absent from class due to school activities ensure that set work is obtained from a student who was present – for this purpose a contact number should be sought in advance.
- Ensure that all necessary books, copies etc are gathered together before leaving school.
- Find a quiet place and establish a homework routine; preferably have a desk that can be left set up.
- Design a personal homework timetable. This timetable should allow for short breaks as well as allocating some time for study and general revision.
- Try to avoid all obvious distractions, television, radio, mobile phone, social media etc.
- When possible, homework should be completed early in the evening rather than late at night.
- Try to complete homework on the night it is set, even though it may not be required immediately.
- Carefully plan the completion of long term projects preferably identifying intermediate goals and associated dates.
- Take notes when studying, highlight key areas, headings etc. These will be useful later for revision.
- Where the homework involves solving problems, study the examples given in class first, before attempting the problems.
- When content such as vocabulary, grammar, definitions, diagrams or formulae have to be memorised regular self testing is advised.

- Make sure all written work is neat, tidy and clearly legible.
- When homework is completed, timetable and school bag should be checked to ensure that all books, PE gear, Art materials etc are ready for the next day.

10. Duration of Homework/Study

The following is a broad guideline regarding the duration of homework/study based on best practice and supported by the NPCpp.

Year	Week Night	Weekend
First Year	1 - 1 ½ hours	2 - 2 ½ hours
Second Year	1 ½ - 2 hours	2 - 3 hours
Third Year	2 - 2 ½ hours	4 hours
Fifth Year	3 hours	5 - 6 hours
Sixth Year	3 - 4 hours	6 - 8 hours

11. Supports

Moyle Park College provides a number of supports to help students with homework;

- Homework Club for 1st years organised by the School Completion Programme
- Supervised Night Study which is available 5 nights a week.
- Learning Hubs for exam classes
- Google Classroom
- Study Skills Seminars
- Monitoring of homework journals by Form Tutors
- Positive points reward system on VShare
- Teachers showing students exemplars of good homework

12. Sanctions

If a student fails to do their work to a sufficient standard, teachers may record non-completion of work on VShare. The teacher may apply sanctions in line with the school code of behaviour. Parents/Guardians will be notified when a student regularly fails to present homework.

13. Evaluation

Staff will monitor the practice of homework in the school.

Amendments to best practice will be made in the context of school review.

This policy is subject to periodic review by the Board of Management