

Homework Policy

Mountrath Community School promotes a school environment where students are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. We promote quality teaching and learning, positive behaviour and the pursuit of standards of excellence in all areas of school activities. Our Homework Policy aims to foster an appreciation of the importance of homework as an integral part of the teaching and learning process. In line with our Mission Statement this policy further promotes a whole school approach to homework inclusive of students, teachers and parents/guardians.

Rationale:

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

For students - Homework:

- Supports the review and practice of skills learned during class.
- Allows students to recognise areas of difficulty.
- Leads to improvements in academic performance.
- Improves confidence with the learning process.
- Encourages students to become independent learners.
- Re-enforces work learned.
- Provides a platform for further learning.
- Prepares students for exams.

For Teachers - Homework:

- Provides feedback on students' progress.
- Enables identification of individual students' strengths and build upon the learning process and work undertaken in class.

For Parents - Homework

- Builds a link between the home and the school.
- Provides an opportunity to see the work students are doing.
- Enables involvement in the students' learning.

Guidelines:

Homework given should encourage effort and pride in the work produced. It should be designed to improve academic performance, related to the ability of the student, administered at a differential level to accommodate the needs of learners at all levels, used to generate ideas and give rise to independent research and be fair, realistic and consistent.

Role of Student: Students are expected to:

- Have their journal with them at all times.
- Organise their homework journal.
- Write all homework into the journal.
- Record work done in class for revision purposes if written homework is not given.
- Ask for assistance to ensure homework assignments are understood.
- Organise their time in order to ensure that homework is completed.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Present all homework by the deadline.
- Ensure that homework and all other materials needed for school are in their school bag.

Students absent from class due to extra-curricular activities are expected to establish and complete assignments they have for the next day. It is recommended that students appoint a 'homework buddy' (a student from the class) who can relay homework assignments from missed classes.

Where appropriate, if a student has been out sick, and does not have work completed, a period of time will be given to the student to complete missed assignments.

Role of Parents/Guardians: Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Provide a suitable environment for doing homework - a reasonably quiet, suitable place in which students can do their homework free from distractions (such as television, mobile phones, computers etc.)
- Parents should monitor the homework journal every night.
- Parents should encourage regular time for study in advance of school and state exams.
- Encourage that homework is completed to the highest possible standard.
- Provide books and materials where necessary.
- Respond to notes from teachers.
- Notify teachers where there is a problem regarding homework.
- Check and sign the Journal each week.
- Communicate with the school when a student is absent.

Role of Teacher: The teacher is expected to:

- Highlight the importance of doing homework properly.
- Set homework for each class, as appropriate.
- Make an attempt to assign a variety of homework types e.g. research, written, oral, practical etc.
- Allow for differentiation when assigning homework tasks i.e. set common achievable homework with varying expectations and to apply their knowledge of student ability and reading/writing levels when setting homework.
- Explain homework clearly and give students the opportunity to ask for any clarification.
- Outline/write the homework clearly on the board and the duration the work should take.
- Give students time to record the homework in their journals.
- Provide supporting notes and materials where applicable.
- Record the homework given.
- Check, correct, sign and date homework.

- Provide feedback to students.
- Record the completed homework.
- Reward or sanction students.
- Bring it to the attention of the Year Head when there is a repeated problem regarding homework.

Role of Class Tutor: The class tutor is expected to:

- Explain the importance of homework.
- Encourage students to do homework to a high standard.
- Check journals weekly.
- Liaise with the Year Head as necessary.

Role of Year Head: The Year Head is expected to:

- Explain the importance of homework.
- Encourage students to do homework to a high standard.
- Monitor the no homework entries of students as to provide a positive intervention.
- Give appropriate sanctions to students who fail to adhere to the Homework Policy.

The amount of homework appropriate for students of different ages:

The intrinsic value of homework activities is far more important than the precise amount of time devoted to them. Best practice suggests that the amount of time should fall within the following ranges:

- First Year 1- 1 ½ hours
- Second Year 1 ½ - 2 hours
- Third Year 2 – 3 hours
- Transition Year varies depending of project work and activities
- Fifth Year 3 - 3 ½ hours
- Sixth Year 3-4 hours (including weekend study and revision)

Teachers and parents need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework or when inspecting homework.

It is also necessary for both teacher and parent to ensure that there is a healthy balance between time allocated to homework and time allocated to extracurricular and leisure activities.

Supports provided in Mountrath Community School

- Learning Support and Resource.
- Supervised study (2 Hours, five days per week) is available after school. There is a fee charged for this, payable each term.

Sanctions:

Sanctions for failure to submit any or incomplete homework:

- Note in journal and work must be submitted in full according to teachers' direction.
- Teacher may impose other sanction **or** complete a report for Year Head
- Report to Year Head. Eight notes of no homework = Friday detention. Further sanctions may be imposed by the Year Head (Homework report card, detention, letter sent to parent/guardian). Other sanctions may be applied in line with the Code of Behaviour.

Evaluation of Policy:

The policy will be subject to review periodically. It will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Feedback from teachers, students and parents regarding the effectiveness of the policy in achieving its aims.
- Improved recording and monitoring of homework as evidenced in the student journal
- Increased student responsibility for homework completion
- Increased involvement of parents/ guardians with regard to homework

Ratified by the Board of Management 11th Sept 2018