

## **Homework Policy Portmarnock Community School**

Effective homework has positive and beneficial effects in reinforcing and facilitating learning, stimulating thinking, encouraging active independent learning, as well as developing and fostering a closer relationship between learning in school and at home. Parents can support the school in regard to homework assignments by assisting in the following:

- Providing continued interest and concern for the student's successful performance in school through encouraging the student in his/her performance of homework assigned
- Ensuring the students at home are provided with a quiet area to study, equipped with desk and chair and good quality of lighting
- Assisting the school in stressing the importance of reading and its benefits
- Ensuring that any part-time jobs held by students do not interfere with the completion of homework and revision

The aim of homework is primarily to improve the student's grasp of material and work covered in class, while also and especially in a student's senior years to encourage the gathering and assimilation of additional materials that may be beneficial to student learning.

Homework can take a variety of forms including:

- Written assignments
- Creative assignments
- Learning assignments
- Revision work
- Collecting information for projects
- Listening to tapes or CD's
- Watching education documentaries or television programmes
- Preparing for debates, role-plays etc
- A topic covered in class has to be studied for the next day and so must be recorded in the student's journal

In order to assist students organize homework tasks and differentiate between study and written homework requirements, a module on "Study Skills" as part of the S.P.H.E programme is delivered to 1<sup>st</sup>/2nd year students.

A study skills programme appropriate to the needs of examination students is organised each year.

All homework, written assignments, learning assignments and creative assignments are to be recorded in the student's Journal which is given by the school to the students specifically for this purpose. The Journal is signed on a weekly basis by the parent/guardian of students from 1<sup>st</sup> year through to 3<sup>rd</sup> Year. With good habits established it is hoped that students in Senior Cycle can take full responsibility themselves for their Journal. Journals are regularly monitored and signed by the Tutor and are available to all teachers should they wish to communicate with parents

It will be the parents'/guardians' responsibility to inform the school/class teacher of any reasons why a student is unable to complete an assignment(s). The parent/guardian can communicate this through the use of the student's Journal. The class teacher will in turn communicate to the parent/guardian if a student repeatedly fails to present written assignments or has failed repeatedly to complete learning/revision assignments.

As students vary in ability levels and in speed of completion of work, it would be impossible to indicate precisely the amount of time that should be spent by each individual student in the completion of homework and revision on a daily basis. We do offer however the following timetable as a general guideline for what might be appropriate at different levels as students move up through the school:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Hours per day on homework and revision</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> year	1 to 2
2 <sup>nd</sup> year	1.5 to 2
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	2 to 3
4 <sup>th</sup> year	Will vary depending on amount of project work
5 <sup>th</sup> year	3
6 <sup>th</sup> year	3+

- The school expects that all homework is completed on time and to the best of a student's ability.
- Students absent from class due to extra-curricular activities are expected to establish and complete assignments they have for the next day.
- 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.

If a student or his/her parent/guardian feels that he/she is struggling with the amount of homework and or revision, the parent/guardian should approach the class teacher/tutor/year head with regard to this matter.