



Ardscoil La Salle

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Homework Policy

Introduction

The Ardscoil La Salle homework policy is based on our mission statement which commits us to develop the full potential of each student in an environment that promotes self-esteem and a sense of personal responsibility.

Rationale of Homework

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. Learning continues through the completion of homework. Homework may be assigned to a class, a group within a class or to an individual according to student needs. Homework is an essential part of learning and teachers assign homework for many reasons. Homework can help students to:

- Review and practice what has been learned in class during the day i.e. it is an extension of classroom learning and experience.
- Explore subjects in greater depth than is allowed by class time. It allows for gaining a better understanding of the subject.
- Practise new skills and concepts and enable students to become more competent in their use.
- Develop independent learning – the completion of projects, the use of local library for research, the use of the Internet etc.
- Carry out preparatory work for the next day's classes.
- Develop study skills and encourage independence, self-discipline and responsibility.

Homework and Parents/Guardians

Homework at Ardscoil La Salle plays an important part in the education process.

- It provides a link between school and home and also gives parents the opportunity to reinforce the importance of learning.
- It provides parents with a means of becoming involved in the student's learning. Parents play a crucial role in shaping good attitudes and habits in relation to their son's/daughter's homework. Monitoring of homework by parents/guardians ensures that homework is being recorded and completed.
- Valuable learning comes from attempting as well as completing work. Students benefit from parental support and encouragement in persevering with difficult assignments.

- Experience has shown that parental involvement with homework is invaluable for the student. Encouraging a positive attitude is most beneficial and parents can play a major role in this.
- Parents/Guardians should check that the homework has been completed in full
- If for some reason the assigned homework is not done or completed a note in the journal from a parent explaining why is required.
- Parent/Guardians should check the Homework Journal regularly and sign it once a week

Types of Homework

- Homework can be short term (due for the next day) or long term (e.g. the writing of an essay or the completion of a project).
- Homework can be written work, practical work or learning. In relation to learning homework it is very important that the student completes this each evening.
- Homework can be in the form of revision of work already learnt.

Time Allocated to Homework

Recommended time to be allocated to homework for each year group is as follows:

- 1st Years: 1 to 1.5 hours
- 2nd Years: 1.5 to 2 hours
- 3rd Years: 2 to 2.5 hours + planned revision time
- 4th Years : 1 to 1.5 hours including project work, participation in TY activities
- 5th Years: 2 to 3 hours homework + planned revision time
- 6th Years: 3 hours homework + planned revision time

Organisation of Homework

- Students should expect to receive homework in most subject areas each day.
- Homework, both written and oral, is considered of equal value and importance.
- Homework is regarded as an extension of classwork and as a preparation for the next day's work.
- In order to achieve, students must be prepared to spend time studying and revising as well as doing their homework.
- It is very important that a student's very best effort is made at all times. When difficulty is encountered, a student should refer to his/her textbook or examples given in class.
- It is required that there would be some evidence of effort made as this enables the teacher to assess the student's learning needs.

Best Practice for Completing Homework

- Find a quiet place to work and establish a routine.
- Try to avoid all obvious distractions, TV, Radio, Social Media etc.
- Homework should be completed early in the evening rather than late at night.
- Design a personal timetable for homework, study and revision.
- Take notes when studying, highlight key areas, headings etc. These will be used later for revision.
- Use the textbook or notes given in class to help when answering written questions.

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

Teachers and Homework

Teachers will endeavour to:

- Write homework on the board where necessary.
- Give students time to write homework in journals.
- Be aware of demands made on students in other subject areas, thereby allocating sufficient time to complete essays, projects etc.
- Ensure homework is marked promptly
- Ensure homework is clearly marked to identify areas for improvement.
- Ensure feedback is constructive, practical and given in an appropriate time frame.
- Ensure that a record is kept of homework completed
- Give structured guidelines for revision.
- Make parents aware of any problem in this area by sending a note home in the journal.

Homework Journal

Each student has a Homework Journal which is to be used to record details of homework for each school day. The following is best practice for students and their homework journal

1. There should be an entry for each subject for each day.
2. When homework is completed, a tick should be entered in the 'done' column.
3. Students should record carefully the instructions for their homework.
4. Students should ask questions, when necessary, to clarify the assignments given.
5. Before leaving school in the evening students should check that they have all the books, copies and materials necessary to complete homework that evening.
6. Students should carefully plan for the completion of long-term projects.
7. If a student is absent from class, he/she should find out what work was missed and what homework was given.
8. Students involved in extracurricular activities must also complete their homework.
9. Students are to get a parent/guardian to sign their journal weekly.

Failing to Complete Homework

If homework is not completed appropriate sanctions will be imposed by the teacher which may include extra work, note to parent/guardian in journal, detention, referral to Yearhead.

Supervised Homework

Supervised study (one and a half hours) is available after school for all students. Please check arrangements as these may change from time-to-time