

Coachford College Homework Policy

Introduction of homework

Homework should be meaningful for the teacher and the student. It should serve to reinforce work done in class and it should act as a bridge between the work of one day and the next. It should be organically and systematically linked with and integrated into a programme of teaching and learning thereby forming part of the process of assessment for learning. It should be designed in such a way as to offer the students opportunities for self-assessment. It offers an opportunity for a more meaningful dialogue between school and home.

Why Homework?

- Homework helps students
 - to construct knowledge,
 - develop deeper understandings and connections amongst the concepts to which they have been introduced
 - provides an opportunity for them to apply the skills they have acquired.
- It fosters positive values such as
 - self-discipline
 - responsibility
 - an interest in learningwhich will benefit them throughout their lives.
- A mode of assessment as teachers seek to discover what progress has been made by students where teaching plans can then be altered to take time to revisit some aspect of the curriculum while also preparing for examinations considering the vast amount of material which are to be tested in both public and school examinations, it is impossible for students to achieve true mastery of each subject without spending time studying at home.

What should be set for homework?

This will vary greatly according to the subject, the student, the age of the student and the level appropriate to that person. That homework may take many forms such as:

- Doing exercises based on class work
- Completing worksheets
- Essay writing
- Learning off terms
- Formulae and definitions
- Working on projects
- Designing
- Simple experiments
- Drawing
- Reading
- Making a model
- Report writing
- Preparing for tests

This list is by no means exhaustive.

Scope.

This policy applies to students of Coachford College and relates to all school homework and assessment. The policy was drawn up in consultation with all the school partners.

The school policy aims to create an effective use of the homework journal and communication of homework to parents/guardians while ensuring expectations of home study are understood and addressed.

Rationale.

Effective homework and assessment makes for effective education through practice and feedback.

Communication between teachers.

- If a teacher is setting an assignment or project or assessment, the teacher will consult with other relevant subject teachers
- Before a teacher decides on a date for assessment or project, he/she will review their date by consultation to ensure no clashing with other assignments/assessments.

Communication between home and school.

- The journal is the foremost communication tool between home and school regarding homework, progress and behaviour.
- Any homework and behaviour issues will be written by teachers into the journal which parents/guardians will review on a nightly basis.
- Parents can write any notes regarding concerns about progress or homework for review by teacher the following day.
- If a parent/guardian wishes to review their child's progress at a year head level, they can ring the school to make an appointment for a phone conversation or subsequently a face to face meeting.

Use of journal for homework is emphasized in Appendix detailing full usage of the journal.

Estimated homework times

1st Year: students should complete 1 ½ hour homework. This should ideally be completed as soon after school as possible.

2nd Year: students should aim for 2 hours homework.

3rd Year: students should complete homework in 2 ½ hours.

Transition Year: 1 ½ hours homework. This is separate from project time.

5th Year: Homework for 3 hours.

6th Year: students should aim for 3-4 hours.

Failure to hand in homework.

All homework must be attempted to the best of the student's ability. Written homework must be handed in on time.

Failure to hand in homework may result in:

- Discussion with subject teacher
- Verbal reprimand, extra work or detention at the discretion of the subject teacher. This may also result in the issuing of a homework report card for duration of one week to further monitor progress.

- Subject teacher or Year Head contacting parents.
- Referral to the Year Head.

Appendix

Use of journal

Student

- All homework to be written into correct day on journal. Details must be specified in journal i.e. “in Copy” is insufficient unless its questions given in copy. Homework must state page number, questions and all other details. Due date can be included if necessary.
- Any notes from teacher must be signed. It is the responsibility of the student to present journal to his/her parent/guardian for review and signing.
- Journal to be kept clean and presentable. No graffiti or student notes to appear in journal.
- Loss of journal must be reported immediately to year head and new journal purchased within two days at their own expense.
- Journals must be available at all time for inspection by any teacher.

Teacher

- During the class, instruct students to write homework into their journal.
- Any acts of indiscipline or incomplete homework should be noted in the students journal and checked for signing the following class.
- Class tutors to inspect journals at regular intervals convenient to the tutor.
- Class tutor to check and record absence notes.
- Any teacher can confiscate a student’s journal if it is deemed beyond acceptable presentation and neatness.

Parent

- Parent should check child’s journal nightly to review homework given and ensure student is spending adequate time completing homework and study.
- Parent should write absence notes with explanation into appropriate place in the journal for absences. Notes should not be written into the weekly section.
- Provide positive supportive and active interest in their children’s homework, encouraging them rather than just insisting that the work be done. By providing a suitable atmosphere and equipment e.g. chair, desk and adequate light and heat.