



# St Fergal's College Homework Policy

## Contents

Rational .....	3
What do we mean by Homework? .....	3
Homework may include: .....	3
Homework Guidelines .....	3
Duration of homework: .....	3
Roles and Responsibilities .....	4
Teachers will: .....	4
<b><i>Students will:</i></b> .....	4
Parents/Guardians will: .....	5
Support and Feedback.....	5
Differentiation.....	5
Collaboration.....	5
Assessment and Evaluation.....	5
Well-Being Considerations .....	5
Non-completion of Homework .....	6
Communication with Parents/Guardians .....	6
Review and Adaptation .....	6
Ratified by the Board of Management .....	6

## Rational

Homework is an integral part of the educational process in St Fergal's College. The purpose of assigning homework is to reinforce classroom learning, develop independent study skills, and foster a sense of responsibility among students. Our homework policy is designed to strike a balance between academic enrichment and the overall well-being of our students.

## What do we mean by Homework?

Not all homework is alike in nature, purpose or timing. Homework assignments can be to prepare for the next class lesson, to practice or reinforce skills, knowledge and information taught in class, or to expand on what was taught in class.

### Homework may include:

- Written assignments.
- Learning assignments such as note making or mind maps.
- Revision work.
- Reading, listening or watching subject related material.
- Collecting or researching information.
- Problem solving.
- Practical work practice, oral, music, art etc.
- Preparing work, essays, presentations, debates, reports etc.

## Homework Guidelines

- **Quality over Quantity:** Homework assignments will be focused on quality rather than quantity. Teachers will assign meaningful tasks that align with the curriculum and the learning objectives of each subject.
- **Clear Instructions:** Teachers will provide clear and concise instructions for each homework assignment. Students should understand the purpose of the assignment, the expected outcomes, and any specific guidelines.
- **Manageable Workload:** The school is committed to ensuring that the total amount of homework assigned is manageable for students. The estimated time for completion of homework should be age-appropriate and not exceed reasonable limits.

### Duration of homework:

- First year: 1/1.5 hours
- Second year: 2 hours
- Third year: 2½ to 3 hours
- Fourth Year: Homework may be given but may be less structured than in Junior years and will often consist of research for extended essays or project work.

- Fifth year: 2½ to 3 hours
- LCA1/2: Homework may be given but will often consist of research for task/practical work

- Sixth year: 3 to 4 hours

### **Or**

- 1st years – 10 mins per class
- 2nd years – 15 mins per class
- 3rd years – 15 mins per class
- 4th years – Homework may be given but may be less structured than in Junior years and will often consist of research for extended essays or project work.
- LCA1/2 - Homework may be given but will often consist of research for task/practical work
- 5th years – 20 mins per class
- 6th years – 25 mins per class

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

Set out are the roles and responsibilities of teachers, students and parents in relation to homework procedures:

### **Teachers will:**

- Set homework regularly.
- Assign the homework during class time.
- Write homework on the board.
- Give students an estimated completion time.
- Ensure all instructions concerning homework are clear to everybody and allow enough time to write homework into the journal.
- Correct homework and provide feedback.
- Keep record of homework set.
- Differentiate homework when needed.
- Set achievable standards of homework.
- Implement policy if homework is persistently incomplete.

### **Students will:**

- Record all homework in their journal correctly.
- Ensure they understands the homework before leaving the classroom.
- Understand that homework will vary in nature.
- Make sure their homework is their own work and not copied from another student.
- Get a signed note from a parent/guardian if homework is not completed on time (please note that this may still count as an incomplete homework).
- Present written homework in a neat and legible manner.
- Have necessary books and equipment to complete homework.

- Ensure they get and complete any homework missed due to school activities.

#### Parents/Guardians will:

- Provide a suitable environment for their child to do their homework.
- Encourage students to spend sufficient time on homework and revision each night.
- Monitor homework (this is expected for junior students).
- Check and sign the journal weekly (First year students only).
- Help students to manage their time efficiently.
- Attend parent teacher meetings.
- Support the school with any sanctions employed to deal with incomplete homework.
- Provide teachers with a note of explanation for incomplete or failure to complete homework.

### Support and Feedback

- **Teacher Availability:** Teachers will be available to answer questions and provide clarification in class, students are encouraged to seek assistance when needed.
- **Constructive Feedback:** Teachers will provide constructive feedback on homework assignments to facilitate learning and improvement. This feedback may include suggestions for areas of improvement and praise for well-done work.

### Differentiation

Teachers will consider the diverse needs of students when assigning homework. Differentiation strategies will be employed to accommodate varying learning styles, abilities, and special requirements. Homework tasks may be adjusted as needed to ensure equitable access to learning opportunities.

### Collaboration

Group or collaborative homework assignments may be given occasionally to promote teamwork, communication skills, and peer learning. However, individual accountability within such assignments will still be emphasized.

### Assessment and Evaluation

Homework assignments may be considered for formative assessment purposes to gauge student understanding and progress.

### Well-Being Considerations

The school acknowledges the importance of maintaining a healthy balance between academic responsibilities and students' overall well-being. Therefore, efforts will be made to avoid overloading students with homework that may negatively impact their mental, physical, and social well-being.

## Non-completion of Homework

- Parents may be asked to sign homework by a classroom teacher.
- Non completion of homework will be monitored, this will be recorded on VSware with 0 points or with -2 depending on classroom management approach.
- Parents may be invited to meet with the relevant Year Head to discuss on-going problems with homework or required to assist in the implementation of a plan to support homework completion if deemed necessary.
- If there is no improvement in homework the student may be referred to their Year Head.

## Communication with Parents/Guardians

The school will maintain open lines of communication with parents and guardians regarding the homework policy. Regular updates on homework expectations, frequency, and any changes to the policy will be provided to ensure transparency and collaboration.

## Review and Adaptation

The homework policy will be periodically reviewed to assess its effectiveness and relevance. Feedback from teachers, students, and parents will be considered, and adjustments will be made as necessary to ensure a balanced and beneficial homework experience.

By implementing this homework policy, St Fergal's College aims to foster a positive and supportive learning environment that promotes academic growth, independent study skills, and the overall well-being of our students.

## Ratified:

Reviewed by staff:	Date:
Reviewed by students:	Date:
Approved by BOM Chairperson:	Date: