

ST. KEVIN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WHOLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY



	DATE.
RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT:	DAY OF 201 .
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WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON HOMEWORK

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RATIONALE

Our Mission Statement is:

“St. Kevin’s Community College where students, parents and the wider community work together to help each individual student achieve his/her academic, social and spiritual potential in a safe, secure and happy environment of mutual trust and respect”

Homework is a vital element, in helping students achieve their academic potential. This Policy outlines the school’s approach to Homework.

ROLE OF HOMEWORK

- To reinforce what has been learned in class
- To revise what has been learned in class
- To help students develop the capacity for independent learning
- To develop good study skills
- To create a link with parents

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Revision of class work
 Oral learning work
 Written work
 Project work
 Research work using Library or Internet
 Preparation for practical work, for example, ingredients for cookery

RECOMMENDED TIME

First Years -	1½ - 2 Hours
Second Years -	2 - 2½ Hours
Third Years -	2½ - 3 Hours
Fifth Years -	3 - 4 Hours
Sixth Years -	3 - 4 Hours

CORRECTION AND EVALUATION OF HOMEWORK

Homework should be the starting and finishing point of each lesson.

Maintenance of copies or homework notebooks should be emphasised: – these to be taken up and corrected regularly.

Feedback on homework should highlight areas for improvement in the context of assessment for learning.

Good Homework should be affirmed.

MOTIVATING STUDENTS

- Adopt a positive and respectful approach to students.
- Engage students in the idea of the importance of homework
- Use positive comments to build student self-esteem
- Set short term goals that are clear, specific and achievable
- Give direction in the achievement of those goals
- Encourage students to reflect on and improve their work
- Correct Homework to emphasize its importance

STUDY SKILLS FOR EACH SUBJECT AREA

Each subject department will develop its own guidelines on homework and study skills appropriate to that subject.

Study Skills to be related to the ability of each student

Encourage students to establish a study routine

ROLE OF TEACHERS

- To give homework on a regular basis
- To allow students time to write homework into journals
- To take up copies regularly and correct and date homework
- To keep a record of homework completed
- To follow up on students who don't do homework – sanctions, contact parents etc.
- To recommend a suitable duration for homework

Teachers within a subject department may decide on a particular day to take up homework.

ROLE OF PARENTS

Parent's duty is to ensure that homework is done

Journals to be checked by parents each night

Journals only to be signed by parent when it is clear that the required homework is completed.

Parents should contact the school if any difficulties arise re: homework given

Parents to be encouraged to establish a comfortable and quiet environment for study

ROLE OF THE STUDENTS

- To record homework given in journals at the end of each class
- To complete homework to the best of their ability
- To keep homework copies in good condition
- To take on board the teacher's comments and suggestions

SANCTIONS

First Offence: Given a Penalty Sheet appropriate to the subject

Second Offence: Double the punishment given

Third Offence: Detention with the class teacher

Fourth Offence: Contact the Parents/ Guardian directly

Fifth Offence: Arrange a meeting with the student, teacher, year head and parents/guardian

AWARDS

Homework is included as part of the end of term awards for each Year Group. Teachers should use the Journal to highlight a student's efforts at homework.

It should also be remembered that:

- * Thorough correction of homework is vital
- * Positive comments should be used
- * Good work and effort should be acknowledged
- * Useful formative advice should be given

All of these when written into a student's homework copy will act as an incentive to increase the student's understanding and commitment to homework.