

HOMEWORK POLICY

2021

Ardgillan College


Date for review: On an on-going basis



Gerry McGuire

Chairperson

Board of Management



Date ratified by the Board of Management

MISSION STATEMENT

Ardgillan College promotes a happy and caring school climate where pupils are encouraged and supported to reach their full potential. The emphasis is placed on quality teaching and learning, positive behaviour and the pursuit of standards of excellence in all areas of the school activities. Our philosophy is based on respect, tolerance and understanding while appreciating the diversity of our changing world. Ardgillan College delivers a six-year cycle from first year to sixth year.

Ardgillan College Homework Policy aims to foster an appreciation of the importance of homework as *an integral part of the teaching and learning process.*

RATIONALE

Homework is important at Ardgillan College because it:

- Enables students to review and practice the skills learned during class
- Leads to improvements in academic performance
- Generates an understanding of the benefits of learning
- Improves student confidence with the learning process
- Encourages students to become independent learners
- Re-enforces work learned
- Provides a platform for further learning
- Provides feedback to the teacher on student progress
- Builds a link between the home and the school

PRINCIPLES / GUIDELINES

The practice at Ardgillan College is that homework given should be:

- Designed to improve academic performance
- Related to the ability of the student
- Administered at a differential level to accommodate the needs of learners all levels
- Used to generate ideas and give rise to independent research
- Accommodating of learning difficulties through explanation of terminology, repetition, word recognition, etc.
- Fair
- Realistic
- Consistent

WHAT IS HOMEWORK?

Homework can take many forms, depending on the subject and the topic. The following is a sample list of the various form homework can take:

- Answering questions in a copy or a workbook
- Practice assignments
- Preparation: collecting information or materials
- Research for a topic or for a project
- Learning information from notes, worksheets or book
- Revision of topics covered
- Writing up missed work
- Finishing work not completed in class
- Reading
- Writing up experiments
- Practical work
- Transferring skills to new situations
- Practicing listening/spoken skills
- Watching programmes and reporting

ROLE OF STUDENT

Students at Ardgillan College are expected to:

- Sign the relevant policies and documents contained in the journal
- Always have their journal with them during school and bring them home each day
- Keep a copy of their timetable in their journal
- Keep their journals neat, without graffiti or missing pages
- Organise their homework journal
- Write all homework into the journal
- Organise their time in order to ensure that homework is completed
- Complete homework to the best of their ability
- Present all homework by the deadline
- Ensure that homework and all other materials needed are in their school bag
- Take schoolbags and relevant materials home each day

ROLE OF PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Sign the relevant policies and documents contained in the journal
- Take an interest in pupils' progress
- Support the homework policy
- Provide a suitable environment for doing homework
- Ensure that homework is completed
- Provide books and materials where necessary
- Respond to notes from teachers
- Communicate with the college when a student is absent
- Notify teachers where there is a problem regarding homework
- Check and sign the journal at least weekly
- Check the journal daily during the first term, especially for first year students

ROLE OF TEACHER

The teacher is expected to:

- Highlight the importance of doing homework properly
- Set appropriate homework for each class
- Explain homework clearly
- Outline/write the homework clearly on the whiteboard or projector
- Give students time to record the homework in their journals
- Provide supporting notes and materials where applicable
- Record the homework given
- Reward or sanction students

ROLE OF CLASS TUTOR

The class tutor is expected to:

- Explain the importance of homework
- Encourage students to do homework to a high standard
- Check the merits and sanctions area of the journal on a weekly basis
- Liaise with the year head/parents/teacher on a regular basis as necessary
- Notify parents where there is a problem regarding homework

GUIDELINES FOR HOMEWORK

Year	Time Spent on HW
1 st Year	1 – 2 hours each night
2 nd Year	1.5 – 2.5 hours each night
3 rd Year	2 – 3 hours each night
5 th Year	3 - 3.5 hours each night
6 th Year	3 - 3.5 hours each night

Sanctions for Failure to Submit Homework:

1 st no homework	Verbal warning and additional work given by the teacher and the homework to be completed for the next day. Teacher keeps a record of missed homework.
2 nd no homework	If student fails to submit homework and additional work the following day, a HW is recorded in the journal or VSWare by the teacher.
2 HWs	If a student receives two HWs they are placed on detention.

In instances where a student consistently fails to submit homework a meeting will be sought with parents and further sanctions may be applied in line with the college Code of Positive Behaviour.

Students who miss class due to extracurricular activities must find out the homework given and complete it before the next class