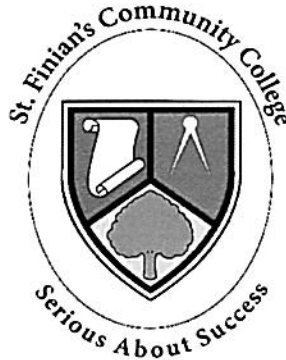
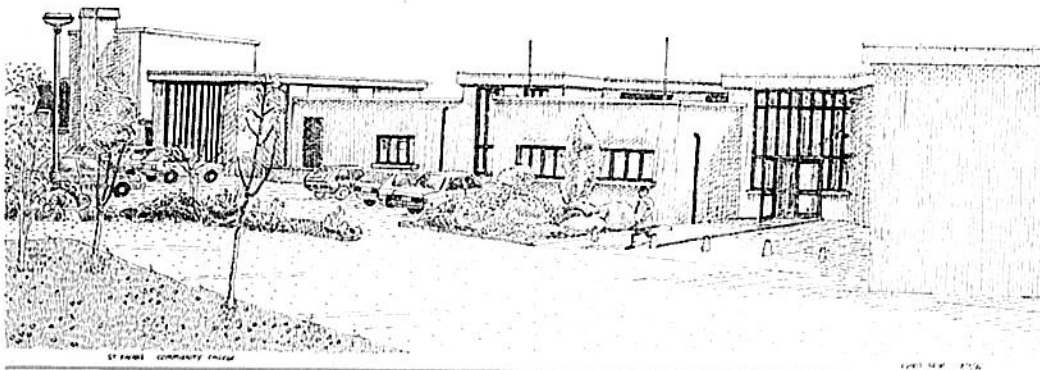


Homework Policy

St. Finian's Community College



Core Values: Respect · Responsibility · Diversity · Equality



Contents

- Mission Statement
- Introduction
- Importance of Homework
- Role of Homework in the Learning Process
- Types of Homework Assignments
- Teacher Guidelines
- Parental Involvement
- Homework Journal
- Time allocated to Homework
- Role of Teacher, Parent /Guardian, Student,
- Consequences for incomplete homework
- Homework recognition & awards

Mission Statement

St Finian's Community College is a wholly inclusive school. We, with the partners in education, are committed to being a caring, learning community where each person is valued and accorded respect and dignity. The staff aims to deliver a broad, diverse curriculum in a calm, disciplined and safe environment in an atmosphere where all will be encouraged to become confident, responsible persons striving to reach their full potential.

We are committed to providing the highest standard of education, which is suited to all the needs of our students. We acknowledge the value of ongoing whole-school development in collaboration with the ETB, the Board of Management, Staff, Parents and the Community.

Rationale

At St. Finian's Community College, we are committed to fostering academic excellence, personal growth, and mutual respect. Homework is designed to be inclusive and supportive for all abilities. Homework is defined as the time students spend outside the classroom in assigned learning activities. At St. Finian's Community College we believe that homework plays a vital role in our student's educational experience. It supports students' learning journeys, reinforcing classroom instruction, and promoting independent study habits. This policy outlines our collective approach to homework, ensuring consistency and clarity across the school community.

Importance 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 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.

Homework helps students to:

- Review and practice the skills completed in class
- Encourage students to develop independent thinking and self-discipline
- Prepare students for assessments and examinations
- Strengthen the partnership between home and school

- Improve literacy and numeracy skills
- Helps identify gaps in learning
- Enables students to develop key skills such as critical thinking, time management and self- assessment
- Ensure students are on target with their learning and academic performance
- Improve the students learning based on feedback (from the teacher / peers /self)
- Act as a bridge between the work done one day and that to be done the next
- Provide an opportunity for students to apply the skills they have acquired
- Give students the opportunities for self- assessment
- Develop good study habits

Types of Homework

The following is a sample list of various forms homework can take including but not limited to the following:

- Revision of classwork
- Oral learning tasks
- Written exercises
- Project-based assignments
- Research using books or digital resources
- Preparation for practical subjects (e.g., ingredients for Home Economics)

Assessing homework and offering feedback

In St. Finian's Community College we provide both formative and summative feedback. This gives teachers the opportunity to focus student attention on:

- What the student has done well
- What areas of the work need to be improved
- How to improve the work or understanding.

We aim to use comments that relate to

- The task given
- The learning intention
- The criteria for success

Parental Involvement

For the most part, homework should be independent work, however parents should support their child's learning by:

- Making sure their child has a quiet space to work
- Helping their child establish a homework schedule
- Being available for questions and clarifications
- Encouraging, motivating and prompting their child
- Tracking their child's time, if necessary.

Homework Journal

Each student is given a Homework Journal at the beginning of the year to record details of homework for each school day. The journal is also used as a form of communication between home and school. The following practice should be observed by all students in relation to their homework journals.

- Students should record all homework and seek clarification regarding instructions, if necessary, before leaving the classroom
- Separate entries should be made for different subjects
- Students should carefully plan for the completion of long-term projects.
- If a student is absent from class, she/he should find out what work was missed and what homework was given. Those involved in extracurricular activities must also complete their homework.
- Parents are requested to sign the journal at the end of each week.

Recommended Time Allocation

Year Group	Suggested Daily Homework Time
First Year	1-1½ hours
Second Year	1 – 1½ hours
Third Year	2-2½ hours
Transition Year	Flexible
Fifth Year	3-3½ hours
Sixth Year	3 + hours

Support for Homework

- School Journal
- Supervised Study
- Teams
- Various school clubs- e.g. reading club
- After -school classes may be scheduled on a voluntary basis by teachers and students are encouraged to attend

Role of Teachers

Teachers will:

- Assign homework regularly and clearly
- Allow time for students to record homework in journals
- Correct and provide feedback
- Monitor completion
- Coordinate within departments for consistent expectations

Role of Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to:

- Ensure homework is completed in a quiet, supportive environment
- Check and sign journals regularly and weekly, confirming homework completion
- Communicate with the school if issues arise
- Reinforce the importance of homework at home

Role of Students

Students are expected to:

- Record homework accurately in their journals
- Complete assignments to the best of their ability
- Maintain tidy and organised homework copies
- Reflect on teacher feedback and apply it to future work

Sanctions for Incomplete Homework

Include:

- Verbal warning
- Written warning in the Journal
- Written warning & recorded on VSWare
- Detention with class teacher
- Parent/Guardian contacted
- Meeting with student, teacher, Year Head, and Parent/Guardian

Awards and Recognition

- Homework performance contributes to end-of-term awards/accumulation of behaviour points
- Teachers will use journals to highlight student effort and record on VSWare for parents to see

- Positive feedback, thorough correction, and formative advice will be used to motivate students.

Monitoring and review

St. Finian's Community College will monitor, review and evaluate this policy and all related work and procedures on an ongoing basis to ensure legal compliance and the maintenance of best practices.

⁹
Ratified by B.O.M. on: 10th December 2025

Next Review Date: December 2027

Signed by Chairperson: Bagid Mckenzie