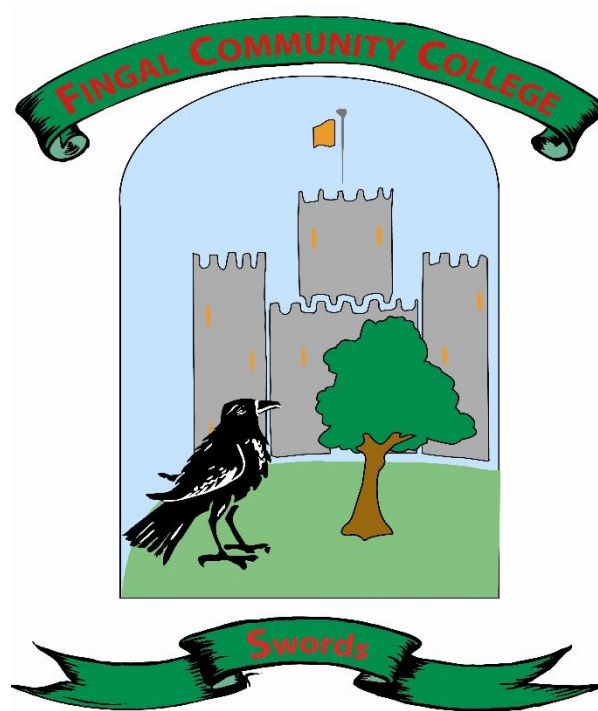


# Fingal Community College



## *Homework Policy*

*June 2018*

## Definition

Any learning activity that students do outside of normal lesson time can be regarded as homework. The homework task is related to work that students are doing in school, often as preparation consolidation or follow up. Homework can take many forms depending on the topic and the subject in question. Some examples of homework tasks are as follows:

- Written Assignments
- Learning Assignments
- Essay Writing
- Reading
- Investigations
- Interviews
- Simple Experiments
- Drafting
- Essays
- Diagrams or maps
- To research a topic
- Art to practice or finish
- To write up an experiment
- Project work
- Sewing
- Finding a Recipe
- Spellings
- Preparing for class tests or exams
- Drawing
- Watching a television programme
- Practise of listening skills / spoken skills
- Research
- Mind Maps
- PowerPoint presentations
- Quizlet, Padlet, Edmodo

Therefore, there is always homework to be done!

## **Rationale**

Why do homework?

- Homework consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding developed at school.
- It encourages the skills needed for students to study effectively on their own.
- It promotes independent learning.
- It can extend school learning e.g. through additional reading.
- It directs research.
- It sustains the involvement of parents in the management of students' learning and keeps them informed about the work students are doing.
- It is an important link between home and school.
- Homework provides the teacher with feedback on the student's progress.

From the beginning of First Year each student is expected to establish a homework routine.

## **The Homework Journal**

The Homework Journal is an important connection between home and school. The journal will inform discussion at parent teacher meetings. Students are required to have journals in their possession while in school and while undertaking homework. Students should keep their Homework Journals on their desks during class. Each student is expected to keep a record of all homework, both written and non-written, in his or her Homework Journal, which is given by the school to the students specifically for this purpose. Journals are regularly monitored and a class teacher will communicate VSware if a student fails to present written assignments or has failed repeatedly to complete learning assignments. Journals should be checked and signed each week by Parents/Guardians. Students are expected to keep their Homework Journals in good condition.

## **Presentation of Homework**

Students are expected to present their homework in the form outlined by the subject teacher. Written homework for each subject should be presented in the appropriate subject copy. It is recommended that all work should be dated. Answers should be clearly written as this assists with revision.

## **Special Educational Needs**

Homework should balance the rights of all students to fully access the work of the class with the individual learning needs of student with SEN. Subject teachers will, as far as possible, collaborate with the Learning Support Department. For some students, the involvement of parents may be beneficial.

## **Time Spent on Homework**

All students differ in terms of their ability and the speed of completion of work. It is not possible to be prescriptive on the amount of time students should spend of homework. However, the following guidelines should be helpful.

1st Year – 1 to 2 hours

2nd Year – 2 hours

3rd Year – 2 – 3 hours

5th Year – 3 hours approx.

6th Year – at least 3 hours.

*Weekend study and revision is also essential, particularly in the lead up to both house and state exams.*

*All students should spend time at home on their studies whether or not work has been assigned. If no homework has been set then students have an obligation to go over material they have recently studied in class.*

## **Feedback for Students**

Assessment of homework tasks will be formative in nature. Teachers will use the learning outcomes provided by subject or short course specifications as a starting point for planning a unit of learning and to develop learning intentions and success criteria to be shared and discussed with their students. As part of their daily practice, teachers will continue to assess students' learning by observing and listening as students carry out tasks and by considering how they respond to homework tasks. Teachers will use the learning intentions and success criteria as a basis for providing feedback to homework tasks to help students plan their next steps in learning. Students will also be encouraged to reflect on how they are progressing in their own learning and provide feedback to their teachers. This will develop the capacity for self-management and self-awareness of students' learning.

A variety of methods may be employed to monitor and correct homework.

- Teacher correction
- Class correction
- Class discussion
- Peer assessment
- Students write out answers in the form of a test
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by students themselves under the direction of the teacher.
- Comment only marking or Assessment for Learning.

### **Sanctions**

Persistent lack of effort in relation to homework will be dealt with through the disciplinary system of the college.

### **Roles and Responsibilities : The Role of the Student**

- Students are expected to record homework in the Homework Journal. It is therefore essential that the Homework Journal is brought to school every day.
- Students should ensure that homework is completed on time.
- Each student should be complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Students should ensure that homework is neatly presented.
- If a student is absent from class they must get their class work and homework from the teacher or other students, as appropriate.
- Students should bring home from school sufficient books in order to spend the recommended time at their Homework or studies.
- Students should keep their Homework Journal in good condition.
- Students are expected to keep their Homework Journals on their desks at all times.
- Students should have their Homework Journals ready, on request, for inspection by parents or staff.

## **The Role of Parents/Guardians**

- Parents are encouraged to provide a suitable place for their son or daughter to do their homework.
- Parents may use the Homework Journal to inform the school of any reason why their son or daughter has not completed their homework.
- Parents are expected to sign the homework journal at the end of the school week.
- Parents are encouraged to explain the importance of doing homework to their son or daughter.
- Parents may communicate with the subject teacher if their son or daughter is having difficulty with homework.
- The internet may be used as a source of research. Parents are encouraged to monitor their son or daughter's use of the Internet. See school's Acceptable Use Policy.

## **The Role of the Teacher**

- To give a clear instruction to students regarding homework before the end of each lesson.
- To ensure that students have sufficient time to write homework into the Homework Journal.
- To keep an account of the homework given to students
- To keep an account of homework completed by students
- To give appropriate feedback on homework to students
- To use the Vsware to inform parents if homework has not been completed.
- To use the VsWare to inform parents of homework completed to an excellent standard.
- To consider the varying needs of students when setting and correcting homework.

## **Arrangements for monitoring and evaluating homework policy**

It is envisaged that each subject department monitors homework within the department at subject department meetings. Teachers will evaluate the quality of homework and the contribution it is making to learning.

The Homework Policy will be reviewed within two years to assess the extent to which it is contributing to the effectiveness of teaching and learning in the school.