

# **St. Augustine's College, Abbeyside, Dungarvan**



## **Homework Policy**

### **Mission Statement.**

*St. Augustine's College is a caring community, committed to offering all of its students and staff a happy and safe environment in which they can work, learn, pray and play. We endeavour to facilitate the academic, personal, moral, spiritual and social development of each member of our school community. Our aim is to provide a balanced and well-rounded education for all our students.*

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

St. Augustine's College believes in the value and purpose of homework. Homework is considered an important element in reinforcing students' grasp of material and work covered in class. It allows the teacher to informally assess how well students have grasped new concepts and enables both the teacher and students to identify the next steps in learning.

We endeavour to ensure that homework is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and guardians.

Parents and guardians play a crucial role in supporting the school in their child's education. It can strengthen the partnership in learning between the school and the Parent/Guardian. This policy is also intended to ensure that the importance of family and leisure activities is recognized in the amounts and types of homework given.

### **Purpose of homework:**

- Is an important part of schooling
- Allows for extending, practicing, and consolidating class-work
- Helps students learn how to plan and organize their time
- Develops habits of study, concentration, and self-discipline
- Strengthens home-school links
- Offers Parents/Guardians some insights into what is being taught in the classroom
  - Challenges and extends students.

### **Homework is most beneficial when:**

- It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on motivation
- It is well coordinated, and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis, establishing a good routine of home study
- It is marked promptly and accurately
- Is followed by regular feedback to the student.

Homework is corrected in a variety of ways at the discretion of the individual teacher. These methods may include the teacher collecting and correcting it, and then giving a grade or providing a comment-only marking. It could also consist of the teacher demonstrating in class how the homework should have been completed, and students peer or self-correct. Alternatively, the teacher gives the students the marking scheme or the list of features of quality, and students peer or self-correct under the supervision of the teacher. The teacher ascertains during such activities how well the students are progressing.

The amount of time a student spends on homework will depend on their age, ability, home environment, and extracurricular activities, including family and cultural obligations. In the interest of our students' well-being, we at St Augustine's believe that it is important that students have free time for leisure and physical activities outside of school. Bearing this in mind, the school makes the following recommendations as a guide to parents and students:

|          |                                                         |
|----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1st Year | 1 – 2 hours per day                                     |
| 2nd Year | 1½ - 2 hours per day                                    |
| 3rd Year | 2 – 2½ hours per day                                    |
| T.Y.     | Variable in accordance with the amount of project work. |
| 5th Year | 3 hours per day                                         |
| 6th Year | 3+ hours per day, including weekends                    |

Excessive levels of work/revision, e.g., 5-6 hrs a night, can prove counter-productive and detrimental to the student's well-being.

**This study time should combine:**

- Homework (written and oral)
- Revision
- Exam preparation (leading up to exam time)

All students should spend time at home on their homework, whether or not work has been assigned. If no homework has been set, then students have an obligation to go over the material they have recently studied in class to make sure they have fully understood it.

We believe it is essential that students feel comfortable enough to inform their subject teachers if they are under pressure and would like a reasonable extension to submit a homework essay or project. Additionally, teachers inform students about the number of tests scheduled for a particular day, allowing them to adjust the test date if possible.

***Students who miss class due to matches, medical/dental appointments are expected to find out from their classmates what homework was set by the teacher and to complete it on time.***

Students need to learn to be responsible for their work; this is one of the most important life skills.

In line with the digital strategy for schools (2021 - 2027), where possible, homework should recognise the place of technology, such as home computers, email, and the internet. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

All students are required to have a homework diary. Homework diaries are very useful for developing organisational skills and time management, as well as improving home-school communication. As students move into the senior cycle, homework demands will increase.

Students are expected to complete homework to the best of their ability at all times.

Signed: 

(Chairperson of the BOM)

Date: 17 / 9 / 26.

Signed: 

(Principal)

Date: 17 / 9 / 26.

Reviewed 2025

To Be reviewed 2027