



Donabate Community College Homework Policy

Approved by BOM 30/08/2016

Chairperson: Adrian Henchy

Principal: Anthony Creevey

Mission Statement

Donabate Community College seeks to instil integrity, value, discipline to facilitate the best in the academic and non-academic areas of our students' lives. The development of the whole person is based on personal responsibility, interdependence, respect for self and other. We value our cultures, our traditions, and we are all inclusive of religious beliefs and we seek to be a caring and compassionate community where justice and truth will be central elements'

Ad Astra

Excellence Through Encouragement and Effort

The Aim of the Donabate Community College Homework Policy is

- To foster an appreciation of the importance of homework as an integral part of the teaching and learning process.

Rationale:

Homework is essential 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
- Provides a platform for further learning
- Provides feedback to the teacher on student progress
- Builds a link between the home and the school
- It helps to prepare students for state and house exams.
- Contributes to self-directed learning and discovery
- It develops student's ability and skills to research and investigate.
- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding developed at school.
- It enables students to develop the skills, confidence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study effectively on their own.
- It extends school learning, for example through additional reading.
- It sustains the involvement of parents in the management of students' learning and keeping them informed about the work students are doing.

Principles/Guidelines:

Donabate Community College strives to ensure that homework given should be:

- Fair
- Realistic
- Consistent
- Positive
- Constructive
- Self-directed where possible
- Challenging when appropriate
- Designed to improve academic performance
- Related to the ability of the student. To accommodate the needs of learners all levels
- Used to generate ideas and give rise to independent research which can then be discussed at class level
- Accommodating of learning difficulties through explanation of terminology, repetition, word recognition, etc....
- Checked, monitored and reviewed by teachers.

In the spirit of the new Junior Cert Programme Donabate Community College students are encouraged to reflect on their learning and chose activities (when directed by the class teacher) which they feel will progress their own learning.

What is Homework?

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

Guidelines for Homework:

The intrinsic value of homework activities is far more important than the precise amount of time devoted to them. Teachers and parents will need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework or when inspecting homework

Best practice suggests that the amount of time that should be spent on average, by Second level students, on homework should fall within the following ranges:

Year Time Spent on HW

1st Year 1 – 2 hours each night.

2nd Year 1.5 – 2.5 hours each night.

3rd Year 2 – 3 hours each night. **Weekend study and revision is also essential.**

5th Year 3 -3.5 hours each night. **Weekend study and revision is also essential.**

6th Year 3- 4 hours each night. **Weekend study and revision is also essential.**

Role of The Student:

Donabate Community College Students are expected to:

- Sign the relevant policies and documents contained in the Journal and be aware of their contents which relates to them.
- Have their journal with them at all times 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 for school are in their school bag
- Take schoolbags and relevant materials home each day
 - All students who miss class due to extra curricular activities must find out the homework given and complete it.

Role of Parents/Guardians:

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Sign the relevant policies and documents contained in the Journal and to be aware of their contents.
- 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 in school journal.
- Sign the Subject Report Form if issued to your child.

- Notify teachers where there is a problem regarding homework
- Check and sign the Journal weekly/daily
- Check the Journal daily during the first term, especially for first year students
- Communicate with the College when student is absent and missing homework.

Role of The Class 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 blackboard
- Give students time to record the homework in their journals
- Provide supporting notes and materials where applicable

- Record the homework given
- Check, correct and date completed homework
- Keep a record the results of completed homework
- Reward or sanction students
- Place a student on Subject Report when he/she fails to do homework on a continual basis.

Role of Class Tutor:

The class tutor will work with the student to:

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

Sanctions for Failure to Submit Homework

1st. No. H.W.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. H recorded in the journal by the class teacher 2. Extra work is given and homework must be done for the following day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Note in journal is Recorded and signed by Tutor and Parent/Guardian
2nd+3rd No. H.W.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If student fails to submit homework or the extra work the following day a second H is recorded in the journal by the teacher. 2. Lunch time detention may be given at the class teacher's discretion. 3. When a student fails to do homework for the 3rd time in succession this student will be placed on Subject Report for a period of one week whereby parents and the Class Teacher monitors the student's homework . Parents are notified via the journal of this. Parents are requested to sign the Subject Report Form at the end of the 5 days. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2nd Note recorded and signed by Class Tutor/Year Head and Parent. ● Student will present the outstanding homework to the Year Head the following morning. ● Student is placed on Subject Report by the Class Teacher for a period of 5 days .
4th + No. H.W.	<p>Failure to successfully complete a Subject Report Form will see a student referred to the Year Head. 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</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student reports to the Tutor/Year Head ● Lunch time detention/After School Detention will be given by Year Head ● Parents will be notified via the school Journal

This Policy will be reviewed on 1/9/2019