

Homework Policy

DONABATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



This policy is to be reviewed by the Board of Management every three years.

This Policy was agreed on:

28/1/25

Signature:

Ms. Farrell.

(Chairperson to the Board of Management)

Donabate Community College

Donabate Community College is a post primary college, which opened in August 2008 under the Patronage of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board (DDLETB). The college is co-educational and aspires towards excellence in a caring and supportive environment.

The Board of Management is committed to the successful implementation of recent legislation, in particular the Education Act (1998), the Education (Welfare) Act (2000) and the Equal Status Act (2000). The Board fully subscribes to the principles of partnership, accountability, transparency, inclusion and respect for diversity, parental/guardian choice and equality.

College Mission

The Board of Management will promote Excellence. Our aim will be to create, with the assistance of parents/guardians, responsible citizens with pride in their community. The development of the whole person will be based on personal responsibility, inter dependence, respect for people and respect for property. Our college will seek to instill integrity, value discipline and punctuality and facilitate the best in academic and non-academic areas. We will value our culture, our tradition, be inclusive of religious beliefs and will seek to be a caring and compassionate community where justice and truth will be the central elements.

RATIONALE

Homework is important at Donabate Community 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 Donabate Community 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

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- Watching programmes and reporting

ROLE OF STUDENT

Students at Donabate Community College are expected to:

- Record all the homework due each day in the “To Do” app
- 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

ROLE OF PARENTS / GUARDIANS

Parents/guardians are expected to:

- Take an interest in pupils’ progress
- Support the homework policy
- Provide a suitable environment for doing homework
- Encourage students to complete their homework
- Check VSWare for notes from teachers
- Communicate with the college when a student is absent
- Notify the school where there is a problem regarding homework

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 homework clearly on the whiteboard or projector and/or on Microsoft Teams
- Give students time to record the homework
- Provide supporting notes and materials where applicable

- Record the homework given
- Reward or sanction students in a fair manner
- In cases of concern regarding homework, the subject teacher will record a 0 point note on VSWare to alert parents/guardians

ROLE OF YEAR HEAD

The year head is expected to:

- Explain the importance of homework
- Encourage students to do homework to a high standard
- Check the positive and negative behaviours on VSWare
- Liaise with the parents/guardians/teacher on a regular basis as necessary
- In cases where subject teacher(s) have raised an ongoing concern in relation to homework with a student's year head, the year head will make contact with the parents/guardians to assist the student.

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

Weekend study and revision are also essential, particularly in the lead up to both house and state examinations.

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

SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO SUBMIT HOMEWORK

- If a student fails to submit homework, a note is recorded on VSWare by the teacher.
- In instances where a student consistently fails to submit homework, a meeting will be sought with parents/guardians and further sanctions may be applied, in line with the 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.