

St. Mogue's College

Home Work Policy

Statement of Purpose

Student's homework is an important part of a child's education and it plays a vital role in the education process and in re-enforcing work done at school. The teaching staff of St. Mogue's College places great emphasis on the setting of purposeful, well planned homework which is designed to assist each child in reaching his/her full potential.

Objectives of Homework

It is important that we all understand the purposes of homework:

- It consolidates the work done in the classroom, aids revision and provides practice for examinations.
- It encourages pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own.
- It gives pupils the opportunity to plan and organise their time and to develop good habits and self-discipline.
- It provides opportunities for parental co-operation and support.
- It creates channels for home-school dialogue
- It enables the subject teachers and class tutors to assess pupil progress effectively, challenge students and to raise the achievement levels of all pupils.
- It makes students responsible for their owing learning e.g. if a student misses class, he/she is responsible for catching up on work missed.
- It provides parents with information on their child's progress at school.
- It provides evidence of student's commitment to the learning process.

Homework Defined

The term 'Homework' should not be narrowly interpreted. It is more than written exercises, learning lists of verbs, making summaries etc. It also involves regular **revision work** and **exam preparation**. A wide variety of homework assignments are set by teachers. These include:

- Investigations
- Interviews
- Experiments
- Essay Writing
- Learning Work
- Research
- Visits to Public Library
- Report writing

- Vocabulary
- Tape work for Languages
- Practising a musical instrument
- Spelling
- Designing
- Using Computer/Internet
- Revision
- Reading
- Model Making
- Drawing
- Project
- Listening to radio programmes
- Watching recommended TV programmes etc.

Time Allocation for Homework

The amount of time taken to complete homework will vary from student to student and from year to year. Nonetheless parents/pupils find it useful to be given broad guidelines as to how much time is reasonable for pupils to spend on homework. It is recommended that students spend good quality at home approximately ranging from:

First Year	1 ½ - 2 hours
Second and Third Year	2 – 3 hours
Fourth and Fifth Year	3 ½ - 4 hours

Pupils who are sitting for State Examinations / house exams will probably require more time as exam time approaches.

Homework Sanctions

Homework assignments and deadlines are set by subject teachers and must be adhered to. Lack of co-operation by pupils may be dealt with in a variety of ways such as:

- Verbal and/or written reprimand in Journal
- Standard letter to parents
- An individual teacher may detain the pupil during break/lunchtime until the work is completed.
- Discussion with parents by phone / by letter / by visit to school.
- Use of the school's detention system for persistent failure to do / attempt homework.
- Suspension.
- Refusal of progression to the following year. Pupils may be kept back.

Guidance to Parents on Homework

Parents have a vital role to play in helping their children to achieve their full potential while at school. A positive and supportive home environment in which school and schoolwork are seen to be important provides an excellent starting point. All available evidence suggests that pupils of parents who show real interest in their children's education have a much better chance of making a success of their time at school.

We ask parents to:

- Sign the Homework journal each week and check that homework is being entered properly. This means that both written and learning work are entered. Check also for correspondence in the Journal.
- If at all possible provide a quiet room, away from distractions; a comfortable chair; proper lighting and heating. Insist that your child avails of this room. It is not possible to do homework effectively while watching TV or listening to loud music.
- Encourage your child. Give advice and support. Help him/her to learn by listening to him/her reading or reciting poetry/vocabulary/maths formulae etc.
- Discuss your child's homework with him/her. Ask how he/she is getting on at school and even if the response is brief, as is often the case with teenagers, continue to maintain an interest.
- During term time relieve your child from excessive household chores and other distractions such as farm work, childminding etc.
- Fully support the school in any sanctions we employ to deal with matters relating to homework. Failure to meet homework requirements is taken seriously by the school as we are aware that the neglect of homework can only result in underachievement.
- Check presentation, handwriting, spelling and the condition of copybooks.
- Attend parent-teacher meetings. If necessary, request an appointment through the School Office to meet teachers to discuss any concerns or issues that may arise.
- Encourage that your child draws up a study timetable which should take account of all your child's weekly activities such as study, leisure, TV etc.
- Pupils should not engage in any form of part-time work during school term.
- Do not keep your child home from school unless it is absolutely necessary. Medical and other appointments should be arranged for outside of school hours if at all possible. *If your child does miss school/class make sure that all missed homework is attended to.*
- Extra study will be necessary as exam time approaches so Junior and Leaving Certificate students in particular should be encouraged to do extra study during holiday periods, breaks etc.
- Make sure that groups of pupils who come together for 'group' study do not use this as an opportunity to chat or play music.
- Study and homework are very tiring so your child needs adequate rest and sleep.
- Grinds are expensive but they can help a pupil who is having problems with a particular subject or who is under pressure to obtain a certain grade for college entry requirements etc. Grinds are of little use as 'fire brigade' measures for pupils who

have not worked in school. This also applies to crash courses on offer in some educational establishments.

Guidelines for Pupils

- The teachers in St. Mogue's College place great emphasis on setting purposeful, well planned homework which is designed to assist each pupil reaching his/her potential.
- Pupils are expected to complete all homework assignments given to them by their teachers.
- Homework should be done on time. Maximum effort is required at all times with half measures being unacceptable.
- Each pupil in St. Mogue's College must record all homework in his/her Homework Journal as outlines by subject teachers. Both **written work** and **learning work** must be recorded in the Journal.
- Before you leave each class be sure that you understand clearly what your teacher expects you to do for homework. If in doubt ask for clarification.
- Your Homework Journal must be signed by one of your parents/guardians each week and handed up to your Class teacher for checking on the appointed day.
- If you are absent for class/school for any reason it is **your responsibility** to find out details of the work that you missed. This applies also to pupils who miss classes due to sporting or other extra-curricular activities.
- Supervised study is available in the school for pupils who wish to avail for this service.
- Copying homework from another pupil is counter-productive and is regarded as a serious matter by the school. The same applies to allowing another pupil to copy your homework.
- In the even of homework not being submitted, teachers will require valid letters of explanation from parents/guardians. The homework must be completed.
- Parents will be notified if a pupil's performance at homework does not meet the school's experience.