



# HOMEWORK POLICY

## INTRODUCTION

Students are encouraged to strive for excellence at the level of each one's potential in all areas of life and work.

Homework is an integral part of the learning process applicable to the whole school in St. Angela's.

## DEFINITION

The term 'Homework' should be broadly interpreted.

It includes:

- Written and practical exercises, including oral and aural etc.
- Learning assigned material
- Reading and research
- Regular revision
- Exam preparation
- Review of assessments and teachers' analysis
- Gathering all necessary materials/equipment/ingredients etc. for the following school day.

## THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

- To revise what is taught that day in class
- To carry out and complete assigned work
- To reinforce the work learned last week / last month etc
- To prepare students for engagement in independent learning
- To consolidate skills for students

## RATIONALE

It provides a foundation for life long learning...

- Homework reinforces and consolidates skills and understanding developed in school
- It encourages the skills needed for students to study effectively on their own and promote independent learning.
- Students learn to take responsibility for revision and homework, etc.
- It extends school learning, for example through additional reading.

- It directs research

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

## **GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS**

- To establish an effective homework routine early on, in an organised manner.
- Each student must record all homework in her homework journal as outlined by subject teachers. Both written work and learning work must be recorded in the journal.
- Before the student leaves class she should understand clearly what the teacher expects her to do for homework. If in doubt seek clarification.
- If a student is absent from class/school for any reason it is her responsibility to find out details of the work that she missed. This applies also to pupils who miss class due to sporting or other extra-curricular activities.
- Homework should be done on time, in full and should be properly presented.
- Students are advised not to postpone homework until later in the evening
- Students are encouraged to choose an environment which is conducive to learning with minimal distractions.
- In the event of homework not be submitted, teachers may request a letter of explanation from parents/guardians. The homework still must be completed.
- Copying homework from another student is counter-productive and is regarded as a serious matter by the school, as is allowing another student to copy another student's work.

## **HOMEWORK SANCTIONS**

Homework assignments and deadlines are set by subject teachers and must be adhered to .  
Sanctions for non-cooperation including the following:-

- Verbal reprimand
- Discipline Slip
- Communication with parents by phone/by letter/by visit to school
- Other reasonable sanctions in relation to the assigned homework

## **TIME SPENT ON HOMEWORK**

Each subject department will have particular homework guidelines. Teachers will advise students of these requirements. More able students will complete tasks quickly and correctly and will appear to spend very little time on their homework. Weaker students and those with learning difficulties may put in large amounts of time and effort. Teachers and parents need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework and inspecting homework.

The following guidelines are recommended:

- First Year 8-10 hours per week

- Second Year 10-12 hours per week
- Third Year 13-15 hours per week
- Fifth Year 16-18 hours per week
- Sixth Year 20 hours per week. Dedicated weekend study is also essential
- Transition Year students have regular homework and projects. Project work requires continuous self-directed learning and application.
- Leaving Certificate Applied – In general the teachers of LCA try to complete work with the students in class rather than giving them work to do at home. However, from time to time there would be informal homework such as finding out something, interviewing a person or watching a specified Television Programme.

### **GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS**

- Teachers will set regular homework
- Teachers should explain homework assignments clearly and allocate time to allow students to record homework in their journals
- Teachers are expected to check homework after each assignment
- Teachers should ensure that no single subject should take up a disproportionate amount of student's time to the detriment of other subjects.
- Homework during holiday periods, mid-term break etc. can be given at the teacher's discretion. Exam classes may benefit from homework at these time.
- Teachers should be mindful of the time constraints in relation to revision during the run-up to exams and reduce homework as appropriate.
- Students should be made aware that it is her responsibility to get details of homework assignments from classmates or their teachers if they are absent from class/school for any reason.

### **PARENTS' ROLE IN HOMEWORK**

- Ensure that sufficient time is allowed to complete homework as the neglect of homework can only result in underachievement.
- Provide a suitable, quiet place where the student can study.
- Strongly discourage students from engaging in part-time work during the school week. Weekend work should not be allowed to interfere unduly with school work.
- Check regularly that the written homework is neat and legible.
- Each student has a special homework journal. Parents can help by ensuring that each item listed is carefully completed.
- Discuss your child's homework with her. Ask how 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.
- Attend parent/teacher meetings

## **SUPERVISED STUDY**

An after-school study programme is on offer within the school for sixth, fifth and third years. Students are encouraged to use this facility.

## **SUCCESS CRITERIA**

What acts as indicators of success in both implementation and outcomes? ...

- Effective long term knowledge of material exam results.
- Weaker students improve on the key concepts of material. Confidence and attitude to work improves.

## **STUDY SKILLS**

Students are given help with study skills through SPHE, tutor time and guidance classes, as well as in their subject areas.

## **REVIEW OF POLICY**

This policy and its implementation will be reviewed every two years by B.O.M. This review will monitor the policy and determine that it is in line with the Mission Statement, the overall School Plan, Inspection Reports and Legislation.

**Reviewed**                    **2011/2012**

**Review due**                **2013/2014**