

ST NESSAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

(Pobal Choláiste Neasáin Naofa)



Homework Policy

July 2007

SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY/MISSION STATEMENT

St Nessan's Community College is a non-denominational, co-educational school. It is comprehensive in its intake and in its curricular provision.

St Nessan's Community College is committed to maintaining an educational environment where the growth, learning and development (Fás, Foghlaim, Forbairt – school motto) of our students can flourish.

To further the aims of St Nessan's as expressed in the mission statement:

- The pursuit of high standards in all endeavours will be expected and every effort will be directed towards the attainment of such standards.
- The school will do its utmost within its resources to provide appropriate opportunities so that every individual has the opportunity to gain maximum benefit from their experience in St Nessan's.
- The rights, responsibilities and dignity of all individuals within the school community will be respected. However, the Common Good takes precedence where there is a conflict between individuals.

WHOLE SCHOOL POLICY ON HOMEWORK

This policy is rooted in the school's fundamental aim to foster in students a spirit of self-reliance, independence, co-operation and responsibility and to provide them with skills for life-long learning.

Rationale

Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study skills. It consolidates and supplements the work done in class and promotes independent learning and creativity.

Goals

- ◆ To ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across the school.
- ◆ To ensure an equitable distribution of study-time for each student.
- ◆ To reduce pressure on students from homework overload.
- ◆ To promote the development by students of good study habits and effective study skills.
- ◆ To enable students to develop a capacity to organise their own work.
- ◆ To enhance the academic achievement of students.
- ◆ To encourage parents to take an interest in and to share responsibility for their children's work and progress.

Policy Content

- ◆ Each student will be assigned homework in 3-4 subject areas each night.
- ◆ The amount of homework given in each subject area will be specified and agreed by staff.
- ◆ Homework will be monitored to ensure that students are not overloaded.
- ◆ A rough time guide will be suggested for each year group.
- ◆ A balance will be maintained between written/practical work and oral/learning work.
- ◆ Teachers will correct homework and give feedback to students.
- ◆ A minimum number of essays per language per year will be agreed for each year group.
- ◆ Special consideration will be given to students with special education needs.
- ◆ Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work.
- ◆ Students will be given specific training in homework/study skills.
- ◆ Parents will be informed when students do not carry out set homework tasks and detention may be arranged to enable the student to complete the work under supervision.
- ◆ Extended exercises will form part of an on-going assessment of each student.
- ◆ Records of homework, grades and comments will be kept by each teacher.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Board of Management/VEC

- ◆ To ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time.
- ◆ To approve the policy.
- ◆ To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy.

Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Head

- ◆ To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy.
- ◆ To monitor the implementation of the policy.

Subject Teachers

- ◆ To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students.
- ◆ To keep records of homework set.
- ◆ To instruct students in homework/study skills.

Pastoral Care Personnel (Class Tutors, Guidance and Remedial Personnel)

- ◆ To monitor the effects of the policy and to identify students experiencing difficulty.
- ◆ To provide support and guidance, especially for those experiencing difficulty.
- ◆ To liaise with subject teachers, especially in relation to consideration for students with special educational needs.

Parents are encouraged

- ◆ To support school policy.
- ◆ To provide suitable conditions for homework.
- ◆ To ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework.

Students are required

- ◆ To do homework set, both oral/learning and written/practical.
- ◆ To present written homework properly.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

- ◆ Each Subject Department will develop agreed guidelines on the amount of homework and the balance between written/practical work and oral/learning work that is desirable for each year group.
- ◆ Each Subject Department will develop guidelines on the homework/study skills appropriate for that subject.
- ◆ Each Language Department will decide on the minimum number of essays per year group per year.
- ◆ The Year Head and Class Tutors of each year group, in consultation with the relevant subject teachers, will develop a homework schedule and time guide for the year group.
- ◆ The Guidance Counsellor and Remedial Teacher may give advice to the subject teacher on devising homework for students with special educational needs.

SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ◆ Good quality homework is being presented.
- ◆ There is a reduction in the pressure on students in relation to homework.
- ◆ Parents and students are satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy.
- ◆ The goals are being attained.

MONITORING PROCEDURES

- ◆ Class Tutors and Year Heads will conduct on-going monitoring through informal discussion with students and subject teachers, and through homework spot checks, and will note feedback from students, teachers and parents.
- ◆ Subject Departments will review implementation once per term.
- ◆ Principal and Deputy Principal will meet with Subject Departments, Year Heads, Class Tutors and Pastoral Care Personnel once per term.

REVIEW PROCEDURES

The policy will be reviewed after two years. The review team will comprise of the Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads.

- ◆ Views and experiences of teachers, students and parents will be surveyed in relation to the success criteria.
- ◆ School records will be analysed to assess impact on students' academic progress.
- ◆ The progress of students with special educational needs will be given particular consideration.

GUIDELINES FOR HOMEWORK

Group	Total Time	Per Subject (approx)
1 st Year	1.5 to 2 Hours	20 minutes
2 nd Year	2 Hours	20 minutes
3 rd Year	2.5 to 3 Hours	30 minutes
5 th Year	3 Hours	30 minutes
6 th Year	3 to 4 Hours	40 minutes