

Meánscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Cill Chainnigh
Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny.

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HOMEWORK POLICY January 2019

School Name:	Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny
School Address:	James's Street, Kilkenny
School Details:	CBS Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST). The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a single sex (boys) school.
School Management:	The Board of Management of CBS Kilkenny is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement

Inspired by its founder, CBS Kilkenny aims to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The school endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students.

Ethos

As an Edmund Rice School, CBS Kilkenny seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Rationale

Homework is work assigned by a subject teacher for completion by the student outside of school time. It may be written, oral, aural, reading, project based work or revision work. It will be challenging and purposefully designed to reinforce or expand on classroom learning. 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. It strengthens home school links and offers those at home insights into what is being taught in the classroom. Homework is also a very valuable means of enhancing learning which contributes to students' overall wellbeing.

While renewing this policy, due consideration has been given to all aspects of the wellbeing of students at CBS Kilkenny and particularly to the Wellbeing School Improvement Plan (May 2018).

General Data Protection Regulation came into force in May 2018, and this policy has been reviewed in light of this legislation.

Homework Policy Statement

CBS Kilkenny believes that homework plays a pivotal role in the provision of a successful educational experience. The self-discipline required to complete a homework task should be fostered from the beginning of First Year because it is vital at later stages of secondary education and beyond. Student journals should list all work to be carried out at home and their correct use leads to vastly improved time management and organisational skills. These journals provide a link between parents / guardians and teachers, and correspondence via the journal is essential. Not only does homework lead to students working independently but it also reinforces skills learned in class. Alternative materials and sources of information not always available in the classroom may be utilised at home, and parents / guardians may become involved in certain projects. Homework also benefits the teacher as s/he can readily assess the progress of each individual student and identify potential problems at an early stage.

Aims of Homework

- To reinforce work carried out in the classroom while it is still fresh in students' minds and therefore more likely to be retained
- To enhance the educational experience
- To challenge students of all abilities
- To foster self-discipline and self-motivation which will be beneficial throughout the school career of the student
- To create a meaningful link between teachers, parents / guardians and students through journal correspondence
- To develop an understanding of journal entry, reminders, deadlines and time management, therefore increasing organisational skills.

Guidance for Parents / Guardians

Parents / guardians are encouraged to:

- where possible, provide a reasonably quiet, suitable place in which students can do their homework free of distractions such as television or other electronic devices
- provide a well ventilated room equipped with a suitable desk and comfortable chair, free from clutter with adequate light and heat
- set a regular time for homework
- establish a homework routine
- provide a good diet
- monitor their son's progress by listening to any difficulties which he may encounter
- inform the school or class teacher of any reasons why a student was unable to complete a homework assignment
- acknowledge and sign notes from teachers
- monitor their son's progress on VShare
- communicate with a class teacher at Parent-Teacher meetings regarding homework
- monitor their son's use of the internet while completing homework
- ensure that part-time jobs held by students do not interfere with the full and proper completion of homework.

Guidance for students

- Students must record all assigned homework in their journals
- Students must complete all homework to the best of their ability
- It is the responsibility of students involved in extracurricular activities or who may be absent for other reasons to ascertain and complete homework assigned in their absence
- Students should seek clarification from the teacher on any aspect of their homework of which they are unsure
- Students must ensure that their homework is completed and available for correction at the allocated time
- Students are expected to present all homework on time and in a tidy, legible and organised form.

The Assignment of Homework for Special Educational Needs Students

- Any relevant information relating to individual students with special educational needs is provided to staff by school management and/or the Special Education Needs (SEN) team
- The SEN co-ordinator and Special Education teacher (SET) work with individual teachers as required
- SEN students are identified at Junior Cycle level. They may be assessed, and appropriate support facilities be put in place e.g. one-to-one tuition which may include help with homework.
- Each student's experience and grasp of a subject is naturally going to be different. It is not expected that the same standards will be achievable from all students. Each student is encouraged to develop to the best of his ability and to engage with his subjects at the appropriate academic level.
- Subject teachers will collaborate where possible with SET to ensure class tasks are manageable.

Feedback for Students

Students look mainly to teachers for a response on the quality of their work. Effective marking and feedback are fundamental to a student making progress. This is in line with the school's belief in the value of Assessment for Learning. Teachers check homework on a regular basis. A variety of methods is used to correct homework:

- Teacher correction
- Class correction
- Class discussion
- Students exchange work for correction
- Students write out answers in the form of a test
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by students themselves under the direction of a teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for students.
- Students are encouraged to evaluate their own learning.

DURATION OF HOMEWORK

The following is suggested only as a broad guideline based on best practice and is not definitive:

- 1st Year 1.5 hours
- 2nd Year 2 - 2.5 hours
- 3rd Year 2.5 - 3 hours
- Transition Year 0.5 hours minimum (depending on project/activities)
- 5th Year 2.5 - 3 hours
- 6th Year 3 - 4 hours

Procedures for non-completion of homework

- A student who has a valid reason for non-completion of homework must have an explanatory note from a parent / guardian dated and signed in his journal. The student must show the note to all relevant teachers.
- Persistent non-presentation of homework will be brought to the attention of the class tutor to allow the situation to be further investigated.
- Teachers who notice students copying homework in their class should bring this to the attention of the relevant teacher.
- Sanctions for non-presentation of homework will be in accordance with school policy. If a student fails to attempt work, or shows an obvious disinterest in doing same, this will be noted in the Student Journal and on VSware.
- In the event of repeated failures to complete homework the teacher will apply the agreed sanctions as outlined in the School's Code of Behaviour. Records will be kept for future Parent-Teacher meetings.
- Parents will be contacted when a student regularly fails to present appropriate homework.

Review of Policy

The school authorities will review this policy on a regular basis in order to stay up to date with current best practice and with relevant legislation in this area.

Approval

This policy has been approved by CBS Kilkenny Board of Management.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chairperson, Board of Management