



DOMINICAN COLLEGE

HOMEWORK POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Dominican College, Taylor's Hill, is a Catholic voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of Le Chéile. The school is committed to the provision of high quality education in an environment which is conducive to effective learning, teaching and discipline. Dominican College has as its objective the development of the personal, spiritual, physical and academic potential of each student in its care. The uniqueness and dignity of each individual are values enshrined in the Dominican philosophy of education.

1.2 Dominican College is committed to educating the whole person to her full potential in a caring, supportive and happy environment. In accordance with the Vision and Mission Statements of the school, each student is directed and helped to become the best person she is capable of becoming.

1.3 This homework policy is rooted in the school's fundamental aim to foster in students a spirit of independence, co-operation and responsibility, to provide them with skills for life-long learning and to nurture their intellectual growth in the constant search for truth.

1.5 Regular homework is an essential part of the learning process and requires co-operation on the part of the students, teachers and parents.

2. OBJECTIVES OF HOMEWORK

2.1 To promote in students good study habits and effective study skills.

2.2 To enable students to develop a capacity to organise their own work.

2.3 To enhance the academic achievements of students.

2.4 To encourage parents to take an interest in and to share responsibility for their daughters' work and progress.

2.5 To ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework.

3. HOMEWORK DEFINED

3.1 The term ‘homework’ should not be narrowly defined. It consolidates and supplements the work done in class and involves not only written work but also learning, memorizing etc. It also involves regular revision work and exam preparation. A wide variety of homework assignments are set by teachers. These include:

- Reading
- Problem Solving
- Investigations
- Interviews
- Experiments
- Essay writing
- Learning work
- Research
- Visits to Public Library
- Report writing
- Vocabulary
- Spelling
- Designing
- Using Computer/Internet
- Revision
- Model making
- Drawing/painting
- Projects
- Listening to radio programmes
- Watching recommended T.V. programmes
- Using recorded materials for languages etc.

4. GUIDELINES FOR THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

4.1 To ensure that the policy is developed, evaluated and reviewed if and when necessary.

4.2 To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy.

4.3 To approve the policy.

5. GUIDELINES FOR THE PRINCIPAL & DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

5.1 To establish structures and procedures that allow for the implementation of the policy.

5.2 To communicate the policy.

5.3 To monitor the implementation of the policy.

6. GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS

6.1 Teachers in the school are expected to set regular homework on topics covered in class.

6.2 Teachers should explain homework assignments clearly and allocate time to allow pupils to record homework in their journals.

6.3 Teachers should give clear guidelines as to how homework is to be presented.

6.4 Teachers are expected to check homework after each assignment and give feedback to the students.

6.5 Records of homework and grades will be kept by each teacher.

6.6 Teachers should ensure that homework is carried out to a high standard and to the ability level of each student.

6.7 Homework should not be pitched beyond the ability of pupils. Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work. Special consideration will be given to the students with special educational needs.

6.8 Teachers should ensure that no single subject should take up a disproportionate amount of a pupil's time to the detriment of other subjects.

6.9 A balance will be maintained between written/practical and oral/learning within each subject.

6.10 Adequate time should be given to pupils to complete major assignments such as essays etc.

6.11 Homework during holiday periods, mid-term breaks etc. can be given at the teacher's discretion.

6.12 Pupils should be made aware that it is their responsibility to get details of homework assignments from classmates or their teacher if they are absent from class/school for any reason.

6.13 The amount of homework given to pupils should be curtailed or deadlines extended when pupils are involved in school related activities such as attending a play, debate, etc.

6.14 Teachers should try to ensure that students have written assigned homework into their homework journals.

6.15 When students do not carry out set homework tasks the subject teacher may record this in the student's journal which must be signed by the student's parent /guardian.

6.16 Teachers should report students who do not complete homework, on an ongoing basis, to the relevant Tutor and assign sanctions as per Code of Positive Behaviour.

7. GUIDELINES FOR PUPILS

7.1 Pupils are expected to complete all homework assignments given to them by their teachers.

7.2 Homework should be done on time, in full and should be properly presented.

7.3 Each pupil in Dominican College 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.

7.4 Before they leave each class, students should be sure that they understand clearly what their teacher expects them to do for homework. If in doubt, they should seek clarification.

7.5 If a student is absent from class/school for any reason it is her responsibility to find out the details of the work missed. This applies also to pupils who miss classes due to sporting or other extra-curricular activities.

7.6 Supervised study is available in the school for pupils in 3rd, 5th and 6th Year who wish to avail of this service.

7.7 Copying homework is counter-productive and is regarded as a serious matter by the school.

7.8 In the event of homework not being submitted, teachers will require a valid note of explanation from parents/guardians.

7.9 Parents may be notified if a pupil's homework does not meet the school's expectations.

8. GUIDANCE TO PARENTS ON HOMEWORK

8.1 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.

8.2 If at all possible parents should provide students with a quiet room, away from distractions; a comfortable chair; proper lighting and heating. They should insist that their child avails of this room. It is not possible to do homework effectively while watching TV or listening to loud music.

8.3 Parents should sign the homework journal each week and check that homework is being entered properly. This means that both written **and** learning work are being recorded. Parents should check for notes from teachers.

8.4 Parents should encourage their children and give them advice and support. They can help them learn by listening to them reading, helping them with the homework where possible, checking that all their homework has been completed to a high standard and testing their knowledge of the material covered in the homework.

8.5 Parents should ensure that other household chores and work such as childminding do not impinge on their daughter's ability to complete her homework to a high standard.

8.6 Parents should fully support the school in any sanctions employed to deal with matters relating to homework. Failure to meet homework requirement is taken seriously by the school as we are aware that the neglect of homework can only result in under-achievement.

8.7 Parents should check presentation, handwriting, spelling and the condition of copybooks. They should ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework as outlined below. High standards should be expected of students.

8.8 It is vital that parents attend parent-teacher meetings. If specific problems need to be discussed with teachers during the school year, parents should contact the school to arrange an appropriate time to meet.

8.9 Parents should encourage their daughter to draw up a study timetable which should take account of all their child's weekly activities such as study, leisure, T.V. etc.

8.10 Parents should not keep their children 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 their child does miss school/class they should make sure that all missed homework is attended to.

8.11 Parents should encourage their children to avail of supervised study in school if they find it difficult to study effectively at home.

8.12 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.

8.13 Study and homework are very tiring so students needs adequate rest and sleep.

9. TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

9.1 The amount of time taken to complete homework will vary from student to student and from year to year. Nonetheless parents/pupils may find it useful to be given broad guidelines as to how much time is reasonable for pupils to spend on homework. Dominican College recommends the following:

1 st Year:	1 ½ hours per night
2 nd Year:	2 hours per night
3 rd Year:	2 ½ - 3 hours per night
Transition Year:	Varies
5 th Year:	3 hours per night
6 th Year:	3 hours per night.

9.2 Pupils who are sitting for State Examinations, Christmas & Summer exams will probably require more time as the exams approach.

10 SUCCESS CRITERIA

10.1 The Policy will be considered successful if procedures are clear and are followed.

11 REVIEW PROCEDURES

11.1 The Policy will be reviewed periodically.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Dominican College on 19th December 2016.