



Coláiste Pobail de Nógla

## Nagle Community College Homework Policy

### Introduction

Homework is an integral part of the curriculum in Nagle Community College. Our Mission Statement: “Nagle Community College is a centre of education that encourages the holistic development of all in an environment which is caring, respectful and Just”, reinforces the need for a well thought out approach to homework.

*Details of the full Homework Policy are available on the school website. The policy was adopted by the Board of Management on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020.*

### Definition of Homework

Any learning activity that students do outside of normal lesson time can be regarded as homework. The homework task is related to work that students are doing in school, often as preparation, consolidation or follow up.

### Types of Homework

The three main types of homework are:

**Practice Exercises:** These give students the opportunity to apply what is learnt in class, revise and reinforce new skills and information including;

- Consolidating exercises, e.g. maths/ science learning formulae/ tables
- Learning spellings and creating new sentences.
- Revising information about a new topic.
- Practising vocabulary or phrases in a particular language.
- Essay writing.
- Reading for information or pleasure.

**Preparatory homework:** Students prepare for a future lesson or topic by:

- Background reading.
- Pre-reading a text, e.g. poem/ novel.
- Sourcing information.
- Collecting/ preparing items, e.g. material for project work/ experiment.

**Extended Assignments:** Especially in exam classes, students should source knowledge individually and take responsibility for learning by;

- Reading or writing a book review.
- Making or designing an item/ prototype for Practical subject/ Art.
- Watching a film/ documentary for History/ Geography.
- Using library or internet to do research.

## What is the Purpose of Homework?

There are many good reasons why homework is set and why pupils should complete it.

Homework:

- Promotes independent learning.
- Promotes responsibility for learning.
- Fosters the habit of class preparation.
- Encourages reflection on what was covered during class.
- Reinforces and consolidates work done in class.
- To develop study skills, writing skills, research skills and organisational skills.
- To develop and engage in critical thinking.
- Allows students to work at their own pace.
- Provides regular feedback to student on personal progress.
- Provides parents/ guardians with an insight into the curriculum.
- Provides parents/ guardians with an insight into the student's ability and present skill level.
- Helps teacher to monitor individual progress.

### Homework is most beneficial when:

- Teachers set homework that is appropriate to the age, level and capabilities of the student.
- Teacher expectations are well communicated.
- It is set on a regular basis and establishes a pattern of home study.
- It is corrected promptly and accurately.
- It is challenging and has a clear purpose.
- Students take responsibility for their homework.
- Parents are available to encourage and support their child's study.

### Time Spent on Homework

The guideline set out below are minimal homework times. If the home work is finished in less time, the remaining time should be used for revision and learning.

The length of time spent doing homework will increase with each year in school. In the run up to school and state examinations, students are expected to do extra revision and study.

Year	Homework Time
1 <sup>st</sup> Year	1-1.5hrs
2 <sup>nd</sup> Year	1-2hrs
3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	2-3hrs
4 <sup>th</sup> Year	1 Hour
5 <sup>th</sup> Year	2-3hrs
6 <sup>th</sup> Year	3-4hrs Note: Leaving Cert a minimum of 3hrs. weekend revision and revision is also essential

## Homework Journal

From the beginning of first year, each student is expected to cultivate an effective homework routine. To facilitate this, each student is provided with a home work journal at the beginning of each school year. This journal is the most important means of communication between school and home in relation to homework. When used correctly, it is also an important aid to students in ensuring that they cover the prescribed homework. Journals must be kept clean and tidy and must be available for inspection from any staff member that asks. If a journal is misplaced or lost – it must be replaced by the student at a cost of €10.

## Use of the Journal

- On a weekly basis, class tutors will provide their students with a time slot to record their class timetable in the journal for the coming week.
- Homework should be recorded by student during each class.
- Where a specific homework assignment has not been set, students should note the material covered in class and revise this material during time set aside for homework.
- Journal should be checked and signed by parents/ guardians on a daily/ weekly basis as prescribed.
- If a student fails to complete or presents an incomplete homework assignment, a note must be provided in the journal by the student's parent/ guardian explaining reasons why.
- Teachers should use the journal to communicate with parent/ guardian any concerns regarding quality or non- completion of homework.
- Parent/ guardian should acknowledge such notes by countersigning them.
- Parent/ guardian should use the journal to communicate any concerns regarding a student's ability to cope with difficulty/ workload of homework.
- Class tutor should check journal on a weekly basis to monitor compliance with the above procedures. This will be done in wellbeing class.

*Teachers will check and correct your homework on a regular basis.*

## What happens if I do not do Homework?

Failure to complete homework to a satisfactory level will result in one or a number of the following:

- Verbal reprimand
- Written comment in journal
- Relevant extra homework
- Telephone call/ letter to parent/ guardian
- Lunch detention
- Persistent non-compliance could result in tutor report card.

Students, Parents, Teachers and Management have responsibilities when it comes to homework.

We have whole school supports available to support students with their Homework including:

- Tutoring in study skills and management of homework.
- Wellbeing Class & SPHE
- Homework club.
- Afterschool study.
- UCC afterschool tutoring

