

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



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HOMEWORK POLICY Mar 2024

School Name: Christian Brothers Secondary School, Kilkenny

School Address: James's Street, Kilkenny, R95 H985

School Details: CBS Kilkenny is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education 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.

Please note that the term *parents* is used to describe legal guardians also.

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 where appropriate, differentiated 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.

Homework Policy Statement

At CBS Secondary School Kilkenny we believe 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 through all 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.

VWare is a tool used to enhance communication between teachers and parents. All students have access to an online platform for each subject where classwork and homework is posted as appropriate. Homework leads to students working independently. It helps students to revisit and reflect on work that has taken place in the classroom, and to encourage further reflection with the aim of enhancing academic achievement and developing student skills. Alternative materials and sources of information not always available in the classroom may be utilised at home, and parents 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. VWare assists Year Heads to monitor and identify homework issues at an early stage which enable them to provide supports.

Aims of Homework

- To consolidate work carried out in the classroom
- To enhance the educational experience
- To challenge students of all abilities
- To foster ownership of learning and develop the skills required for independent learning
- To create a meaningful link between teachers, parents and students through VSware and online classroom correspondence
- To develop organisational skills through the use of the student journal, and online classroom correspondence,

Guidance for Parents

Parents are encouraged:

- To create an environment where all homework tasks can be completed effectively away from distractions.
- To empower students to establish a homework routine To monitor their son's progress by listening to any difficulties which he may encounter
- To inform the school or class teacher of any reasons why a student was unable to complete a homework assignment
- To acknowledge and sign notes from teachers
- To monitor their son's progress on VSware
- To liaise with relevant personal should any concern arise regarding homework
- To 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 regularly engage with online platforms as appropriate.
- 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 by the assigned deadline
- Students are expected to present all homework on time and in a tidy, legible and organised form
- Students should seek guidance from subject teachers on best study practice and techniques in the relevant subject areas.

- Students may seek guidance on developing a study plan from their Guidance Counsellor if necessary

The Assignment of Homework for Students with Additional Educational Needs

- Any relevant information relating to individual students with additional educational needs (AEN) is provided to staff by school management and/or the AEN coordinator and/or the Student Support team
- The AEN Coordinator and Special Education teachers (SETs) work with individual subject teachers as required
- Students with AEN are identified primarily at Junior Cycle level through a range of measures. Students may be assessed and appropriate supports put in place. 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 SETs to ensure class tasks are manageable. Class teachers are responsible for the learning of all students in their class and must differentiate where appropriate to cater for students with AEN

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:

Year	Hours per school day on homework and revision
1st Year	1 to 2
2nd Year	2 to 2.5
3rd Year	2.5 to 3
Transition Year	Variable in accordance with project work
5th Year	3
6th Year	3+ (Minimum)

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 dated and signed in his journal. The student must show the note to all relevant teachers.
- If a student fails to attempt work, or shows an obvious disinterest in doing same, this will be noted on VSware for the attention of parents.
- 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 Parent-Teacher Meetings.
- Repeated non-presentation of homework will be brought to the attention of the Year Head to allow the situation to be further investigated.
- Parents will be contacted when a student regularly fails to present appropriate homework.
- Homework should be the student's own work Teachers who notice students copying homework should bring this to the attention of the relevant teacher.
- Any inappropriate use of online teaching and learning platforms may result in, but is not limited to, suspension and other sanctions. The Acceptable Usage Policy may be referred to for guidance here.

When 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 Plans (May 2018).

General Data Protection Regulation came into force in May 2018, and this policy has been reviewed in accordance with best practice as detailed in this legislation.

This policy has been reviewed in accordance with CBS Kilkenny Child Safeguarding Statement and in line with the Children First Act 2015 (and Addendum 2019), and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools – Revised 2023.

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