

Abbey Community College – Policy on Homework & Study

(This policy refers to written / oral and research learning)

Relationship to school ethos/mission

This policy is rooted in the mission of the school, fostering in the students a spirit of self-reliance, independence, co-operation and responsibility and providing them with the skills required for life long learning.

Rationale for policy

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 of the policy

- to promote an awareness of the value and importance of homework and study on a daily basis, thus complementing and reinforcing class work
- to ensure consistent approaches to the setting and reviewing of homework across the school
- to have an equitable distribution of study time for each subject
- to reduce pressure on the students as a result of homework overload
- to enhance the academic achievements of the student and to evaluate progress
- to encourage parents to take an interest in and share responsibility for their child's work and progress.

Homework is designed to meet the following purposes:

- reinforce and strengthen concepts taught in class
- develop independent study skills and work habits
- develop responsible and good time management
- complete unfinished class work
- review and practice previous learning

Content

Recommended Timeframe of Homework and Study

Year	Time (Hours)
1 st Year	1 ½
2 nd Year	2 ½
3 rd Year	3 ½
5 th Year	3
6 th Year	3 ½

Please note: A balance must be maintained between written / study / research / project / practical work.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Board of Management will:

- ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated
- approve the policy
- receive reports from the principal on the implementation of the policy.

The Principal, Deputy Principal, and Senior Management will:

- monitor the implementation of the policy.

The Staff will:

- implement the policy
- provide clear guidelines and expectations for study and homework
- provide clear outlines for long term projects
- assign a variety of homework activities
- provide clarification and feedback to students on homework and study
- provide a balance of long and short term assignments
- review homework assignments
- provide time during each class to record homework in School Journal
- keep records of homework set and completed
- be sensitive to learning styles and needs
- communicate with parents where a pattern of unsatisfactory homework emerges; failure to submit homework, incomplete homework, copied homework, unacceptable homework standards etc.
- take disciplinary action if appropriate.

Students will:

- accurately record homework in their School Journal
- ensure he/she has all necessary books / materials / equipment required for each class
- commit to a consistent time to complete homework
- carefully complete daily homework (written and oral) as specified by the class teacher
- present homework properly
- where a difficulty arises with homework will try:
 - a variety of problem solving techniques
 - ask family member/friend for help
 - discuss with teachers any difficulties experienced
- follow up on homework from teachers or peers if absent from class due to illness, involvement in sport etc.
- ensure parents check students homework journal
- accept consequences for non-completion of homework

Parents will:

- support the school policy
- make homework a priority
- provide suitable conditions for students to do their homework/study (i.e. well lit location free from distractions such as television, radio etc.)
- encourage students to spend an adequate amount of their homework/study
- assist in the development of learning strategies e.g. organisational skills, time management etc.
- establish and consistently maintain a regular daily time for doing homework
- check on a regular basis that the student is on target and provide encouragement
- assist in obtaining the necessary resources to complete assignments

- monitor homework and sign class tests
- communicate with teachers if a difficulty arises.

The Pastoral Care Personnel will:

- monitor the effects of the policy on those students identified as having special difficulties
- provide support through guidance and counselling, liaising with class teachers when necessary.

The School will:

- teach the necessary learning strategies e.g. time management, organisational skills, effective use of school journal etc.
- communicate with parents

Policy Content

- students will be assigned homework each night
- homework will be monitored to ensure that students are not overloaded
- study time guide will be suggested for each year group
- a balance will be maintained between written work, oral learning, and student projects.
- teachers will correct homework and give feedback to students.
- consideration will be given to pupils with special education needs.
- homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class or to some future work.
- pupils will be coached in homework/study skills.
- parents will be informed when students consistently fail to carry out assigned tasks.
- extended exercises may form part of an on-going assessment.
- the class teacher will keep records of homework given and completed, any grades awarded, and any relevant comments.

Monitoring the Implementation

- subject departments will monitor and evaluate the policy
- updates and amendments will be reported to the principal

Performance Criteria

- are goals attained?
- is good quality homework being done?
- are parents and students satisfied with the effectiveness of the policy?
- have stress/pressure levels been reduced in relation to homework/study?

Reporting

The evaluation above will be noted by the Principal

The Principal will convey the evaluation to the Board of Management.

Review

The policy will be reviewed by the staff at intervals of no longer than two years.