



Coláiste Cois Life

Gleann an Ghrífin, Leamhcán

Homework Policy

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Mission Statement

Is Gaelcholáiste ilchreidimheach é Coláiste Cois Life ina spreagtar barrfeabhais san oideachas i dtimpeallacht foghlama dearfach. Tá an Ghaeilge agus cultúr na hÉireann mar chroílár an Choláiste. Cothaítear forbairt iomlánaíoch na scoláirí don saol amach rompu trí bhéim a chur ar chúram, pobal, meas agus comhionannas.

Rationale

Homework is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Homework is defined as any learning activity assigned by a teacher to be completed by a student outside of class time. The document *Looking at Our School 2022* highlights the following key areas, which have a clear connection to homework:

- Independent Learning: Tasks that develop independent learning skills.
- Assessment: Tasks focused on assessment for learning.
- Curriculum Links: Tasks aligned with the intended learning outcomes of the lesson.

In addition, the school's mission statement commits to delivering excellence in education and preparing students for life beyond school. This policy outlines the specific responsibilities associated with homework in order to support these aims.

Time Guidelines

Year	Weekdays	Weekends
1	1	1 – 1:30
2	1.5 – 2	2 – 2:30
3	2.5 – 3	3
4	1 (+ projects and research)	1 (+ projects and research)
5	3 – 3.5	4
6	3.5 - 4	4.5 - 5

These timeframes are advisory. Subject teachers should consider the following when assigning homework:

- Short, focused tasks are more effective — frequency of engagement is more beneficial than extended time spent on single tasks.
- There is no conclusive evidence that increased time spent on homework directly correlates with higher attainment — priority should be given to tasks that reinforce learning outcomes.
- A balance must be maintained between workload and wellbeing — more than two hours of homework per day may negatively impact wellbeing. Tasks assigned should be purposeful.
- Distributed revision throughout the year on topics already completed is recommended — review of learning on learning outcomes completed previously should be planned and spaced appropriately.

Responsibilities of Subject Teachers

- Plan homework that is purposeful, clear and appropriate.
- Clearly record homework on the whiteboard and/or on Teams / OneNote.
- Allocate time at the end of class for students to record homework and ask questions.
- Monitor the volume of homework assigned to ensure workload is not excessive.
- Provide feedback on homework.
- Acknowledge and commend significant effort by students.

- Monitor the standard of student's work with the appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence in mind.

Responsibilities of the Student

- Record homework in their journal.
- Complete homework diligently and to a neat standard.
- Ensure they have all necessary materials before leaving school.
- Communicate with the teacher if experiencing difficulty with homework.
- Submit work that is their own and not reproduce the work of others or external sources.
- Follow Department of Education guidelines regarding appropriate use of Artificial Intelligence.

Responsibilities of Parents / Guardians

- Be familiar with the homework policy relevant to their child.
- Provide a suitable environment for homework and study.
- Monitor the standard of work being produced and provide assistance where necessary.
- Monitor VSware for information relating to homework.
- Support the school in decisions made to assist students in completing their work.
- Contact the school where ongoing difficulties with homework arise.

Responsibilities of the Management

- Promote good practice among teachers, parents/guardians and students.
- Support subject and class teachers in implementing this policy.
- Provide supervised study and a homework club for students.
- Monitor and intervene where a student experiences ongoing difficulty with homework.
- Oversee the implementation of the policy.
- Review and amend the policy in line with school needs.

Incentives

- Verbal praise.
- Positive notes on Vsware.
- Recognition cards.
- Display of exemplary work where appropriate.
- Student of the Term.

Incomplete homework - Consequences

- Discussion with the subject teacher.
- Negative note on Vsware.
- Phone call home to parent/guardian.
- In exceptional cases, referral to the Year Head.

Extra-Curricular Activities: Extra-curricular activities are a strong tradition in Coláiste Cois Life. Students must maintain an appropriate balance between school work and extra-curricular activities. Where a student is absent from class due to participation in a school activity, they should:

- Obtain the relevant homework from the subject teacher and note the associated deadline.

Subject teachers are encouraged to upload homework to Teams / OneNote to facilitate this process.

Appendix A: Homework and Study Skills for Students

This section of the document outlines the most effective methods for students to complete homework and engage in study.

Active Retrieval: Active retrieval is a learning strategy in which students attempt to recall the information they are studying without having access to their notes. Below are examples of how this method can be used in practice:

- **Practice / Examination Questions:** Attempt questions based on the learning intentions without referring to notes. Afterwards, review and correct the answers using notes.
- **Flashcards:** Create flashcards based on a chapter or subtopic. These are cards with a question or prompt on one side and the answer on the other.

These processes strengthen memory much more effectively in comparison with simply rereading material.

Spaced Review: Recent research recommends that students review material regularly over a period of time, rather than relying on “cramming”. The timeline below illustrates an example of how this strategy can be implemented.

Day 1	Week 1	Month 1	Month 3
This helps to transfer the information into long-term memory.	Information begins to fade from memory – reviewing at this point reinforces anything that has been forgotten.	Further strengthens any information that may have been forgotten.	Gradually consolidates the information in long-term memory.

The key principle is to **increase the intervals between each review session**. This helps to strengthen long-term memory and reduces the overall amount of study time required.

Good Study Habits: Students often find it difficult to study effectively. The following simple habits are recommended to support effective study:

Study Environment: Students should have an appropriate environment in which to study effectively. This environment should be:

- Quiet
- Tidy and organised
- Free from distractions – students should not have access to mobile phones or anything else that could distract their attention.

Time Management: Time should be clearly allocated for study, particularly as examinations approach. It is important to remember that:

- Short study periods are most effective – avoid spending too long in a single study session.
- Plan a break every 15–20 minutes.
- A screen does not count as a break – the most effective break involves movement, such as taking a short walk or engaging in a brief physical activity.

Clear Goals: Students should be clear about what they intend to learn before beginning a study session. Set clear goals for each study period. Consider:

- Learning intentions based on the material being studied.
- Exercises or questions that reinforce these learning intentions.