



**ROCKWELL COLLEGE**

**HOMEWORK POLICY**

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Rockwell College is a recognised Voluntary Secondary School, providing Junior Certificate, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programmes as prescribed by the D.E.S. which may be amended in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998). Rockwell College is a co-educational school. The pupil body comprises boarders and day-boarders. The College operates under the Trusteeship of the Spiritan Education Trust.

### **RATIONALE:**

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. The rationale for this policy is to set out the general principles which all stakeholders can agree on. Each teacher and subject department will have particular homework requirements based on the type of learning needed. The role of parents is vital in supporting and encouraging good practise in pupils' attitudes to homework.

This policy is formed in consultation with representatives of staff, pupils, parents and the Board of Management.

### **HOMEWORK**

In a school context, homework, from an educational perspective, means work given by a teacher to a pupil or a class that will engage a student in an activity, which could involve reading or writing certain material, or a combination of both. Homework includes (but is not restricted to):

- Written work
- Reflective exercises
- Learning by rote
- Revision of previous work
- Reading ahead
- Workbook exercises
- Project work
- Drawing /illustrating
- Making summary notes
- Practicing exam techniques
- Preparation for presentations

The availability of a supervised study option to all pupils supports the development of positive homework practices within the pupil body.

### **PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK**

The purpose of homework is to help pupils to revisit and reflect on work that has taken place in the classroom, to encourage further reflection or to prepare new material in advance of a new lesson, with the ultimate aim of enhancing academic achievement and developing pupils' learning. Homework is given to supplement what is currently being covered in the class, and may involve recollection of data covered in class, or creation of a piece of work based on guidelines by the teacher. It can involve physically presenting the work, normally to be done at home, to the teacher on a specific date.

### **EXPECTATIONS OF MANAGEMENT**

Rockwell College management is expected to:

- Ensure the provision of a place in supervised study for all pupils availing of the facility
- Maintaining a quality of supervision appropriate to the environment
- Provide a suitable level of comfort

- Provide, where reasonable, support for pupils who are challenged in addressing homework
- Provide study skills to all year groups using internal or external resources.
- Support teachers in developing good practice within the pupil cohort.
- To facilitate, where logistically possible, an even spread of academic and non-academic subjects across the daily timetable in an effort to balance homework.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF PUPILS**

Pupils are expected to:

- Record their homework accurately using their school journal.
- Ask the teacher if uncertain about homework.
- Make their best effort to complete all homework assigned by the date directed. Persistent non-completion of assigned homework is regarded as a discipline issue and procedures under the Code of Behaviour will be applied.
- Present homework in the manner required for that teacher in that subject
- Have an explanatory note for non-completion of homework from a parent/guardian dated and signed in his/her journal. The note must be presented to all relevant teachers.
- Follow study plans as formed to support revision of class work.
- Use supervised study in a productive manner.
- It is the pupils' own responsibility to find their homework from absent classes or if away with extra-curricular activities upon their return to the college, in a manner that does not disrupt other pupils.

## **EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHERS**

Teachers are expected to:

- Assign homework that is relevant and supportive of the development of pupil learning within the curriculum.
- Returned homework collected in class in a timely manner and corrected. Teacher's comments should relate to the task in hand, the learning intentions and the criteria for success.
- Give fair and constructive comments on pupils' work in an effort to develop their learning, being mindful of the varying levels of ability within the pupil cohort.
- Keep records of work assigned and, where practical, results achieved.
- Ensure the volume and content of homework assigned is appropriate to the year group.
- To be conscious of junior cycle pupils and their lack of self-planning, by giving them regular, consistently timed and manageable homework, even if non-written work to give them a routine and to enable them to follow a weekly plan in study.
- Examine each case of non-presentation of homework on an individual basis. In the first instance teachers should apply their own sanction and communicate via a note in the student's journal. Persistent cases are referred to the relevant Year Dean.
- Interact with pupils and have open communication regarding volume of work.
- To factor in and be mindful of other subjects when deciding volume and deadlines.
- Refer pupils experiencing difficulty with the subject area to the S.E.N. Coordinator.
- Ensure that the Periodic Assessments reflect pupils' homework application accurately

## **EXPECTATIONS ON PARENTS**

Parents are expected to:

- Monitor and manage any issues arising, notwithstanding the reality that many pupils complete homework within the full school day if availing of supervised study
- Support the teacher and the school in developing their child's learning.
- Monitor comments in the school journal and Periodic Assessments
- Support disciplinary procedures aimed at improving homework application
- Ensure weekly signing of the journal (junior school only)
- Make the school aware of any learning needs arising
- Support pupils' learning through the provision of adequate homework/study space at home.

## **RATIFICATION & REVIEW**

This Policy is subject to ratification by the Board of Management and to review within four years of the ratification date below. It is available to staff, pupils and parents via the Rockwell College website.

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Chairperson Board of Management

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Date