

Marymount Girls National School

Homework Policy

Introductory Statement

This policy was drafted at the beginning of the academic year 2009/2010 initially by a committee of staff members, parents and representative of the Board of Management and then in consultation with the whole teaching staff. The policy has been implemented in full from November 2009 and was reviewed in November 2014.

Rationale

- The existing policy in the School Plan was due for review
- Teachers have expressed concerns about consistency of homework throughout the school
- Parental feedback at Parent Teacher meetings had shown there were some concerns with content and time being spent on homework by pupils

Relationship to characteristic spirit of the school

- In Marymount School, we respect the individual differences and abilities of all pupils
- As a staff we are committed to the holistic development of all pupils in our care. We strive to ensure that all children's experience of school will be positive, supportive and challenging and that it will enable them to reach their full potential so that in turn they may play a fulfilling role in their community and in society in general
- Homework encourages pupils to work independently and take responsibility for their assignments

Aims

- Consolidation of work done in class
- To cultivate the habit of independent study and develop self esteem
- To keep parents in touch with and involved in the childrens' schoolwork – to this end parents are asked to sign their child's Homework Journal after they have ensured that the child's homework is completed

Guidelines

- Homework should only be given when the teacher has explained what is required
- Homework will have a balance between oral, reading and written work
- Parents are encouraged to support their child's homework, help if necessary and if there is a problem to tell the teacher
- Ideally teachers like to check homework on a daily basis. However for a variety of reasons it may not always be possible to check each child's Homework Journal every day
- Homework is only given on week days
- Suggested length of time
 - 5th and 6th classes - 1 hour
 - 3rd and 4th classes - 45 minutes

1st and 2nd classes - 30 minutes

Infants - 15 to 20 minutes.

- If homework is not done for 3 to 4 days then the following procedure is implemented.

A note is written in the Homework Journal and is to be signed by parents/ guardians or contact may be made by phone.

If there is no improvement the matter will be addressed by the teacher with the child.

If this is unsuccessful an appointment is made with the child's parents/guardians. If a satisfactory conclusion has not been reached the teacher will consult with the Principal.

- Well presented, neat or improved homework may be rewarded
- Sometimes Support Teachers may assign homework but only in consultation with the class teacher and as a substitute for other homework and not as extra homework.
- Individual circumstances and the child's needs are taken into consideration by the teachers.

Pupils

- If there is a difficulty with the homework pupils are encouraged to report this to the class teacher

Parents/Guardians

- If a parent genuinely feels that their child is not able for their homework they should discuss it with the class teacher

Teachers

- Class teachers use information from pupils and parents as part of the ongoing assessment of their pupils and to help them to focus on areas of particular need

Success Criteria

- Feedback from teachers, pupils and parents
- Satisfactory homework
- Exercises and assignments submitted by pupils

Roles and Responsibilities

- The responsibility for the implementation of this policy lies with teachers, pupils, principal and parents/guardians

Review

- To be reviewed November 2017