



# **Belmayne Educate Together Secondary School**

**Roll Number 68346 T**

**Belmayne Avenue**

**Dublin 13**

## **Homework Policy**

**Introduction**

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and learning continues through the completion of homework. Homework plays an important part in helping students to develop to their full potential and should be a positive experience. This policy sets out the school's approach to homework and should be seen as a document which aims to guide and support the practice of students, teachers and parents/guardians.

### **The value of homework**

- It helps students to progress through learning outside the classroom
- It allows students to develop the practice of independent learning without the constant presence of the teacher or other students and the external discipline of the timetable. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and thereafter
- Homework can provide the quiet conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds
- It enforces valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom and helps the absorption of classroom learning
- It allows students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom
- It involves parents/guardians and others in students' work for their mutual benefit
- It encourages opportunities for long-term research and other work
- It forms an important part of students' notes
- It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines
- It forms a link with the study techniques crucial to success at secondary school
- It enables teachers to evaluate students' work and to assess its standard
- It can help with preparatory work for the next day's class
- Learning is strongly reinforced if students revise in the evening what was learnt during the day

### **Ideas for homework**

- Reading/writing/spelling/learning/summarising
- Accessing the internet to research or discover further information on a study topic
- Carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project
- Observing/recording – making a model to exemplify an item of work
- Watching a TV programme related to a study topic
- Completing an exercise to practise, reinforce or apply aspects of the class work, e.g. writing up practical work or notes
- Revising or taking notes on material covered in class that day.
- The task selected by the class teacher will be commensurate with the ability of the students. Where appropriate, for differentiation purposes, teachers may ask students to complete alternative tasks

### **How the school helps students to organise their homework:**

- Students are given a homework journal at the beginning of the year. They must record homework on the page assigned to the day when it was set and also should note the day when the homework is due.
- Students are expected to plan their homework so that assignments do not accumulate.
- Teachers try to make sure that instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all students have plenty of time to record what is expected.
- Teachers aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to students.
- Students may reasonably expect that the homework set will be corrected by the teacher either in class or at home. Where it is not considered necessary/appropriate to formally check homework this should be explained to students.
- Homework taken from students to be corrected outside of class should, under normal circumstances, be returned in a timely manner and where at all possible within one week of collection.
- Homework may be assessed by a variety of means. Marking/grading may not always be appropriate and feedback to students on how to improve their work may involve focusing on specific aspects of the assignment and the relative merits/demerits thereof.
- Tutors periodically check that homework details are filled in the homework diary for students.

### **Effective Homework in Belmayne ETSS**

The following research studies highlights the merits of homework- Hattie 2012; Cooper 1989; Hoover-Dempsey et al. 2001; Leone and Richards 1989; Muhlenbruck et al. 2000

1. Clear Purpose – What outcomes are expected?  
Homework should be assigned with a clear purpose as to the learning outcomes expected. Give success criteria and rubrics- what knowledge and skills do you want students to exhibit in their work? What does an excellent answer look like?
2. Written Instructions – via the journal or Google Classroom.  
There should be no confusion about what students are being asked to do or how to do it. Give written instructions which students can access from home, via the journal or Google Classroom.
3. Linked to classwork – Not used to teach new material.  
Homework should be explicitly related to classwork and not used to teach new material. Students should understand the concepts and possess the skills needed to complete any homework assignment.
4. Doable – Homework must be doable.  
Students should be able to complete the homework on their own with relative ease. Differentiate for varying ability levels- scaffolding, variety, choice in modes of presentation.
5. Feedback- Formative feedback essential  
Written, oral, class discussion. Reinforce what has been done well and re-teach concepts and skills that homework has demonstrated students have not mastered.

## Homework Expectations for Students

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>Stand Proud</b>   | <b>Take pride in your work and ensure to complete it to the best of your ability.</b>   |
| <b>Aim High</b>      | <b>Ensure to put 100% effort into your homework. Do not be afraid to challenge yourself.</b>  |
| <b>Be Respectful</b> | <b>Ensure to show your teacher respect by attempting your homework and speaking to your teacher if you have a question about the homework.</b>                            |
| <b>No Excuses</b>    | <b>Take responsibility for your homework by ensuring to record it properly, asking questions if you are unclear about something and submitting your homework on time.</b> |

### **Suggestions for students regarding organising homework**

- All homework and related instructions should be carefully recorded in the student journal, the due date noted, and when the work is completed a tick should be entered in the assigned column.
- Ask questions, when necessary, to clarify the assignment requirements.
- When absent from class due to school activities ensure that set work is obtained from a student who was present.
- Find a quiet place and establish a homework routine; preferably have a desk that can be left set up.
- Design a personal homework timetable. This timetable should allow for short breaks as well as allocating some time for study and general revision.
- Try to avoid all obvious distractions, television, radio, mobile phone, social media etc.
- When possible, homework should be completed early in the evening rather than late at night.
- Try to complete homework (or at least begin it) on the night it is set, even though it may not be required immediately.
- Carefully plan the completion of long term projects preferably identifying intermediate goals and associated dates.
- Take notes when studying, highlight key areas, headings etc. These will be useful later for revision. Highlighting only without taking notes or summarising is not effective.
- Where the homework involves solving problems, study the examples given in class first, before attempting the problems.
- When content such as vocabulary, grammar, definitions, diagrams or formulae have to be memorised regular self-testing is advised.
- Make sure all written work is neat, tidy and clearly legible.
- When homework is completed, timetable and school bag should be checked to ensure that all books, PE gear, Art materials etc are ready for the next day.

### **How Parents/Guardians can help with homework**

- Encouraging a positive attitude is most beneficial and parents/guardians can play a major role in this.
- Help your child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not left to the last minute or forgotten. Parents/guardians play a crucial role in shaping good attitudes and habits in relation to homework.
- Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions (space, light, heat, quiet, ventilation) at home.
- Take a positive and active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- Valuable learning comes from attempting as well as completing work. Students benefit from parental support and encouragement in persevering with difficult assignments.
- Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult. Contact the subject teachers or the Form Teacher if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve.
- Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the homework journal

### **Failure to hand in Homework**

Teachers expect completed homework to be submitted on time.

If homework is not submitted appropriate action is taken.

- The subject teacher will speak to the student and find out why the homework was not completed.
- The subject teacher will record incidents of no homework on Vsware if following a conversation with the student they fail to submit/produce homework.
- Tutors will contact parents via email or phone if there are three incidents of no homework within a one week period.
- Tutors will report students who persistently fail to submit homework to the Progress Leader.
- The Progress Leader will put a plan in place to support students with homework. The plan may include: supervised study, homework report, meeting with parents.

### **How much homework is expected from students:**

| Year Group           | Guideline for homework/home study.            |
|----------------------|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Year | 1 hour – 1 hour 15 minutes for homework/study |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year | 2 hours for homework/study                    |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Year | 3 hours for homework/study                    |