



# Homework Policy

**“Well organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement.”**

**DENI.**

**Rationale:**

Homework is recognised as an integral part of the learning process as it reinforces classroom education and develops independent learning.

**Purpose:**

Homework is set to:

- Reinforce and extend work which has been carried out in class
- Develop students' ability to work independently
- Provide an indication of progress being made
- Allow for more reading and studying of a topic
- Allow for personal investigation
- Promote self confidence and understanding
- Foster initiative and independence
- Encourage involvement by parents.

In Drumragh Integrated College, each student is issued with a Student Planner. This planner facilitates communication between parents and staff and the college actively encourages parents to maximise their use of this opportunity for liaising with staff.

**The Nature of Homework:**

Homework does not just mean written activities. Homework is an extension of learning in the classroom and therefore may include any variety of tasks.

For example:

- Written work
- Research
- Reading
- Learning
- Drafting
- Revision
- Listening
- Practical work
- Coursework
- Preparation for class work
- Collecting materials
- Watching recommended television programmes

All of these homework tasks are equally important. Students are expected to record and complete all homework issued by their teachers.

At Drumragh Integrated College we recognise that students need support from staff and parents to enable them to achieve their potential and this applies in relation to homework tasks.

### **Students:**

All students are expected to use their Student Planner to record all homework tasks set by staff. Homework should be entered in the planner on the date that it is due to be submitted. Once homework has been completed, students may put a tick against this particular record of homework.

If a student is absent from college, it is their responsibility to find out and record any homework tasks issued in their absence.

Repeated failures to complete homework will result in lunchtime or after college detentions.

### **Subject staff:**

Subject staff will set appropriate homework tasks in keeping with the Homework Timetable/Plan. Students will be given adequate time to record the details of any task. Staff will endeavour to ensure that all students understand the demands of any homework activity.

Subject staff will record missed homework in the Student Planner and may apply appropriate sanctions as required e.g. Referral to Head of Department, Departmental Report, detention etc.

### **Heads of Department:**

Heads of Department will agree suitable amounts of homework as defined by time for each year group with colleagues at the beginning of each academic year.

They will support students who are experiencing difficulties with organisational skills or other issues resulting in regular non-completion of homework. Heads of Department may interview students about their concerns, issue Departmental Reports or liaise with parents by letter or meetings in college. Heads of Department will liaise with Heads of Year regarding students in their year group who experience regular difficulties with homework.

### **Form Teachers:**

Form teachers will check Student Planners on a regular basis to ensure the Planner is being used effectively and that homework tasks are being recorded and completed by students.

In the event of concerns from a subject teacher, they may contact the relevant class teacher or Head of Year to discuss concerns regarding a student's recording or completion of homework and then liaise with the SENCO and/or Head of Year as appropriate.

### **Heads of Year:**

At the beginning of each academic year, Head of Year will collate a Homework Timetable/Plan for all students in their year group. Together with Form teachers, they will monitor the effective use of Planners by students and address concerns with students, subject staff and parents as required.

Heads of Year will also monitor referrals to lunchtime detentions. This monitoring process may result in liaison with College SENCO or meetings with parents to identify concerns and plan strategies to support the student.

### **Parents:**

As part of the Home College partnership, we hope that parents will play an active role in supporting their children with homework activities. This may be done by:

- Checking Student Planners to ensure that homework has been recorded.
- Supporting students with homework activities.
- Informing the college when there are difficulties regarding completion of homework.
- Supporting the college in the implementation of the College Behaviour Policy regarding non-completion of homework e.g., detentions.
- Encouraging students to avail of the daily Homework Club provision to enable them to establish positive approaches to completion and management of homework.

### **REVIEW**

The policy will be regularly reviewed as part of the policy review cycle.

Chairperson of Board of Governors \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_