



SYNGE ST CBS HOMEWORK & STUDY POLICY

Rationale

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. Learning continues through the completion of homework. Homework should be meaningful for the teacher and the student. It should serve to re-enforce work done in class and it should act as a bridge between the work of one day and the next.

Homework consists of:

- Revising/learning work done recently in class.
- Written/Oral/Aural/Research assignments.
- Online assignments. In line with our Remote On-Line Learning Policy.
- Recap on work done in earlier weeks, months or years.
- Therefore, there is always homework and study to be assigned.

Commented [Lesley P11]: Online assignment

THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

- To revise what is taught that day in class.
- To carry out and complete assigned work.
- To reinforce the work learned last week / last month etc.
- To encourage students to develop the skills, self-discipline and motivation to study effectively on their own.
- To keep parents involved in the management of students' learning as well as keeping them informed about the work students are doing.
- To carry out preparatory work for the next day's class.

From the beginning of first year each student is expected to establish a homework routine, aided by their parent(s)/guardian(s).

ROLE OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Homework provides a link between school and home and also gives parents the opportunity to reinforce the importance of learning.
- It provides parents with a means of becoming involved in the student's learning. Parent(s) / Guardian(s) play a crucial role in shaping good attitudes and habits in relation to your son's homework.
- The school expects parents/guardians co-operation in the implementation of this policy and also encourages them to provide a suitable atmosphere in which students can study.
- Parents/guardians are expected to check that homework is being completed and sign the homework journal as follows:
 - **Junior – 1st, 2nd & 3rd Year students – School Journal must be signed nightly by a parent/guardian**
 - **Senior – TY, 5th & 6th Year students – School Journal must be signed once per week by a parent/guardian**
- If a student or parent/guardian feels that there is difficulty with homework, they should make an appointment with the subject teacher with regard to this matter.
- Parents/guardians are asked to encourage students to persevere with difficult homework tasks. All students' benefit from attempting as well as completing homework.
- We ask that as parents/guardians you spend time monitoring your son's homework journal and ensuring that homework is being recorded and then completed according to the needs of the student.
- It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to inform the subject teacher or school why a student was unable to complete a homework assignment. This should be communicated through the student's homework journal.

Commented [Lesley P12]: - Junior – 1st, 2nd & 3rd Year students – School Journal must be signed nightly by a parent/guardian
 - Senior – TY, 5th & 6th Year students – School Journal must be signed once per week by a parent/guardian

ROLE OF TEACHER

Homework tasks should have a clear objective and be both meaningful and challenging.

The teacher can help by:

- Writing homework on whiteboard
- Giving students time to write homework in journals.
- Making parents aware of any problem in this area by sending a note home in the journal.

- Correcting homework regularly. Homework can be corrected in a variety of methods e.g.
 - Teacher correction (which may include elements of “Assessment for Learning Techniques”, [AFL])
 - Class correction
 - Class discussion
 - Students exchange work for correction etc.

Teaching students how to complete homework and study:

- Teachers should make it clear to students how much written work is expected in response to a particular question and how the answer would be marked in the state exams.
- Sample answers should be given occasionally in order to show students what standard of answer is expected in the state exams.
- Good homework completed by students should be celebrated and shown to the class as an example of how the work should be done.
- Tasks set as homework may be assessed and the recorded grades used as part of their Christmas or Summer exam results.
- Students should be given as much guidance as possible as to how to actually do their homework.
- Teachers should differentiate carefully between students' ability to do homework and correct their work on an individual basis.
- Subject teachers should occasionally give students lessons in how to study in their particular subjects. Ideally this would happen early in each term and also near exam times.

ROLE OF STUDENT

Homework Journal

- It acts as an important connection between the work done by students in school and at home.
- Each student is given a Homework Journal at the beginning of the year to record details of homework for each school day. If a student forgets their journal they should get a Day Journal off the Deputy Principal or their Year Head.

Commented [Lesley P13]: If a student forgets their journal they should get a Day Journal off the Deputy Principal.

The following practice should be observed by all students in relation to their homework journals.

1. All homework should be written into the homework journal. Students should record carefully the instructions for their homework. They should ask questions, when necessary, to clarify the assignment.
2. If no written homework is given the student should record what work was completed in class, so they can revise it that evening.
3. Before leaving school in the evening they should check that they have all the books, copies and any other material needed for that night's homework.
4. When homework is completed, a mark should be made to show this and a record made of how long it took.

If a student is absent from class, he should find out what work was missed and what homework was given. Those involved in extracurricular activities must also complete their homework. For this purpose it is worthwhile having a contact number of another student who was present in class.

Expectations regarding Homework:

- Students should expect to receive homework in each subject area.
- Homework should be completed and presented on time and to the best of the student's ability in a neat and tidy manner.
- All homework should be attempted as effort is extremely important.
- The student must always revise the work completed in class that day.

Suggestions for organising homework:

- Attend the Homework Club as often as possible.
- Find a quiet place where possible and establish a routine.
- Avoid all obvious distractions, TV, Radio, Phone calls, Text messages, PlayStation Games.
- When possible, homework should be completed early in the evening rather than late at night.
- Complete homework on the night it is given, even though it may not be required for the next day.
- Design your own personal timetable for homework and study, half hour blocks are recommended followed by a short break.

Commented [Lesley P14]: PlayStation Games

- Take notes when studying, highlight key areas, headings etc. These will be used later for revision.
- Use your textbook or notes given in class to help you answer written questions.
- Where the homework involves solving problems, study the examples given in class first, before attempting the problems.
- When you have to learn off material such as vocabulary, grammar, definitions, diagrams or formulae, test yourself regularly and keep testing until you know it.
- Make sure all written work is neat and tidy.
- When homework is completed, timetable and schoolbag should be checked to ensure that all books, copies, PE gear, Art materials etc are ready for the next day.

Average recommended time spent on homework:

Department of Education Guidelines:

On average students can expect to receive homework in six subjects each day.

- First Year 1 hour 30 mins (15 minutes per subject)
- Second Year 2 hours (20 minutes per subject)
- Third Year 2 hours 30 mins (25 minutes per subject)
- Fifth Year 3 hours (30 minutes per subject)
- Sixth Year At least 3 hours (30 minutes per subject)

Homework club is available after school Monday to Thursday.

Sanctions for homework not done:

- If homework is not presented a teacher may send a note to the parent/guardian via the homework journal.
- Where a student persists in not doing homework a letter may be sent to the parent/guardian.
- If a student does not complete homework he may be given a yellow card.
- Detention may be given to students who persist in not doing their homework.

Date of Policy Adoption

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on:

Chairperson of the Board of Management:

Principal:

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Commented [Lesley P15]: