

## SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

In Ballyclare Secondary School, the homework policy is that all pupils should have a regular, minimum homework commitment which may be:-

- written - in exercise book, file or jotter;
- learning - revision, vocabulary, content-based tests;
- practical or investigatory;
- preparation work for future classwork;
- follow up work as reinforcement of classwork being done.

All homework should be relevant to the topics being studied.

Each department has suggested its **minimum** homework requirement but this would increase during Year 11 and Year 12.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Policy</b>
English	<p><b>Years 8-10:</b> Homework should be an integral part of a unit of work. Each student should receive at least <b>one piece of homework per week</b>. This may be: preparation or planning, research, redrafting, completing a piece of work, reading, spelling or undertaking a written assignment. The amount of homework and the level of difficulty should be appropriate to the class and year group. (Year 8 classes, who participate in the Accelerated Reading Programme, will be expected to read every night and, on occasions, this can be formalised, as homework, by the English teacher.)</p> <p><b>Years 11-12:</b> Homework should be an integral part of a unit of work being studied in class. Students should receive at <b>least one homework per week</b>. Due to the nature of CATs, students should be encouraged to take some level of responsibility for their own learning. They should be encouraged to study independently, particularly in the preparation stage for CATs. This may constitute: reading and making notes, revising classwork, carrying out research, preparing and planning (written work and speaking and listening tasks,) learning notes, working on areas of personal weakness and drafting essay responses to CAT tasks. Such tasks will be guided and formalised by the teacher.</p> <p><b>Years 13 and 14:</b> In years 13 and 14, students are encouraged to take much more responsibility for their own learning; therefore, homework will be linked to reading, research, independent study, preparation and planning as well as essay writing. See CCEA specification and past papers for mark schemes. <b>Students should receive work most nights.</b></p>
Maths	2 written homeworks or 1 written and 1 learning per week

Languages	Year 8-10 - 1 homework per week Year 11-12 - some form of work most nights
History	Year 8-10 - 1 written or learning homework per week Year 11-12 - at least 1 written/learning homework per week
Geography	Year 8-10 – 1 homework per week – this may be learning, written or involve researching a topic. Year 11-12 - at least 1 written or learning homework per week.
Science	Year 8-10 - a minimum of 3 assessed homeworks per module plus revision for end of module tests Year 11-12 - at least 1 written or learning homework per week
ICT	Year 8 – 10 – 1 Learning Homework per week 1 practical homework per term Year 11-12 - 1 written/learning/practical homework per week
Religious Education	Follow up work relevant to class study may be written, learning or private research
Home Economics	Year 8-10 - Homework tasks could include a written task, research, learning of spellings or revision of notes. This will average 1 homework every 2 weeks. Year 11-12 - Home Economics and Child Development Homework tasks could include a written task, revision for end of topic tests and ongoing work for controlled assessment. At least one homework per week will be set.
Business Studies	Year 10 - 1 written or learning homework per week. Year 11-12 - at least 1 written or learning homework per week.
Technology	Year 8-10 - Averaging 1 homework per 2 weeks - worksheets/ learning/research. Year 11-12 - 1 per week - Drawing Design/Comm Design, research plus Design/Real projects
Art	Year 8 - Homework will consist mainly of the collection of information for a classroom project. Year 9-10 - Collection of information - verbal/visual or artefacts suitable for a Theme or Topic set. Year 11-12 - Researching and collecting information through medium of drawing and photography. This back up is essential for course work. Investigative research also required for contextual references. Year 13-14 - Investigative research to back up course work is essential. This should be ongoing throughout the 'A' Level Course.
Road User Studies	Year 11-12 - follow up of classwork -mainly written plus 1 learning homework per week
Learning for Life & Work	Homework would usually be finding materials for a project or a display, researching information to complete forms etc. Homework would tend be set once per month for years 8 to 12.
Leisure & Tourism	1 written or learning homework per week years 11 and 12.
Music	Year 8-10 Homework will consist of practicing for performances, revising relevant work for class assessments and homework relating to the topic, either written or research. These will be for each unit of work. Year 11-12 (GCSE) Preparation work for composition, weekly.

Music Cont.	<p>Daily practice on their chosen instrument (minimum of 30 minutes). Learning homeworks for class tests.</p> <p>Year 13-14 (A level) Daily practice on chosen instrument, at least 30 minutes a day. Research homework, written, listening and learning homework as appropriate.</p>
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Try to keep to the above guidelines though it is possible to be flexible. If the normal time span is extended to meet the requirements of a particular exercise (e.g. a research topic), assistance should be given to help the student to structure the work and checks made at intervals to support and encourage progress.

Homework is not always appropriate even in subjects which are regularly set, but when homework is not set, the reason must be stipulated. Students must not be allowed to assume "No homework - teacher forgot to set it".

Please ensure that everyone understands the homework set by going through the work in class beforehand. Allow ample time for pupils to note it. Encourage regular use of Student Planners.

Set work that all students can reasonably tackle and where necessary add extra work to 'stretch' the more able.

Please ensure that everyone completes his/her homework.

It is very important that staff and students establish a clear pattern of follow-up to Homework. Students respond best if assessed within a framework of encouraging comments. Common errors should be highlighted and revised.

As the setting of homework is a fundamental part of school policy, work must be returned to students as quickly as possible after it has been handed in, and staff must keep an accurate record of marks/grades allotted.

Completed homework assignments should be used to

- a. review the quality and quantity of homework set
- b. review the quality and quantity of homework done and
- c. check the progress of individual students.

Departments should establish a common standard of marking with use of grades and marks clearly established. Acceptable standards of presentation, writing and spelling should also be established.