

Kilkenny College Homework Policy

Homework is an integral part of a student's education. The setting of homework is designed to assist each child reach their potential.

Objectives Of Homework.

- It consolidates and reinforces the work done in class.
- It encourages students to develop the skills, confidence, self-discipline, organisation and motivation needed to study effectively on their own.
- It encourages students to be responsible for their own learning.
- It provides teachers with feedback on student progress.
- Aids revision and provides practice for examination.
- Encourages problem-solving.

Nature of Homework

Homework can take a variety of forms, both written and non-written. Due to the nature and diversity of subjects being studied, there are many non-written forms of "prep" that are more effective in assessing the student's progress and in reinforcing work learned in class. A wide variety of homework set by teachers.

These include:

- Investigations
- Interviews
- Experiments
- Essay writing
- Learning work
- Report writing
- Vocabulary
- Spellings
- Designing
- Music practice
- Revision / Study
- Model making
- Drawing / Painting
- Projects
- Watching recommended TV programmes etc.
- Listening to Cd's for languages and music practice and research using I.C.T.

Homework may be posted on Moodle or other learning websites.

If no specific homework (Prep) is assigned in a subject, then the student is expected to do his/her own reading or revision in that subject.

Appropriate Homework Practice

- It is important to establish a routine for doing homework (Prep).
- This routine should be established very early in the year.
- Starting in First year, each student is expected to establish this homework routine.
- Each student is expected to maintain a record of all homework in their student journal, which is provided by the school to all students, and which should be checked regularly by Parents/Guardians.

- If a student is absent from class/school for any reason, it is the responsibility of the student to find out details of the work missed in class and the prep set. This also applies to students who miss classes due to sporting or extra-curricular activity.
- Students are expected to complete all homework assignments given to them by their teachers.
- The College expects that homework is completed on time, presented on time and to the best of the students' ability, in a neat and tidy fashion.
- The final responsibility for satisfactory completion of homework rests with the student.
- Homework must be completed to the satisfaction of the teacher.

Subject departments will self-evaluate the nature and content of homework to be set and the standards required.

Sanctions may be imposed where acceptable standards are not achieved.

(The sanctions followed will be as set out in Section 10 of the Code of Conduct).

However, students may expect

- That homework assignments will be clearly explained.
- Teachers should ensure that no single subject should take up a disproportionate amount of pupils' time to the detriment of other subjects.
- Adequate time should be given to complete major assignments such as essays etc.

Time Allocation For Homework

The amount of time taken to complete homework will vary from student to student and from year to year. Students vary in ability and the speed at which work is completed. Therefore, it is impossible to indicate precisely the amount of time that should be spent by each individual student in the completion of homework.

The College has set study times (Prep) for all boarder students. The length of the specified study periods (Prep) depends on the year group. All preps are supervised.

1st Year- 3rd Year =Minimum of 1 hour 45minutes.

4th Year- 6th Year =Minimum of 2 hours 15minutes.

It is expected that day pupils adhere to a similar study regime in terms of time commitment. Day pupils should be provided with a quiet room, away from distractions, a comfortable chair, proper lighting and heating. It is not possible to do homework effectively while watching TV etc.

Since computers are an integral part of today's world, it is inevitable and essential that the Internet is a source for much of a student's research. However, only appropriate, monitored use of the Internet is encouraged. It is advised that the use of computers should be in addition to set study time, as is the case for boarders. If boarders need to use a computer they may do so in the computer room in the afternoons. As a guide, it is advised that no student should spend more than 30 minutes per night on internet work.

If a student has their homework completed, then the student is encouraged to read a book of their own choice for pleasure. This is a very good way of improving their literacy skills.

Students may require extra time to complete their homework / projects or revision. Students who are sitting State Examinations / House Examinations will require more time as exams approach. Students can avail of supervised study in the afternoons.

- Supervised prep in the library is available for Form 6 students.
- All other students can avail of a supervised prep in Room 91/92 of Swift Building.
- Students are encouraged to avail of these supervised study areas if they are not involved in other extra-curricular activities.
- All students (including boarders) are expected to do prep/study at weekends.

Homework during holiday periods, mid-term breaks etc. can be given at the teacher's discretion. Exam classes may benefit from homework at these times.

The College also provides an assisted study (prep) for some boarder students with special needs.

Monitoring and Evaluation of Homework

(Assessment for Learning/Assessment of Learning)

A variety of methods are used to assess homework for learning depending on the content and the age of the student.

- Teacher correction
- Teacher comments in writing or orally
- Class corrections
- Class discussion
- Students exchange work for correction
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by students themselves under the direction of the teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for students.
- Class tests.

Study Skills

It is important that students learn how to plan and organise their time. In order to facilitate this, the College provides internal courses on study skills from early in Form 1 onwards. An intensive study skills programme is provided for fifth year students. This course advises students on ways to maximise their potential through appropriate study skills. The teachers also provide regular guidance on study skills within their own subject area.