



St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar, Co. Mayo

Whole School Policy on Homework

Mercy philosophy of Education

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, Mercy Education is committed to holistic development and to the achievement of the full potential of each student, particularly those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. It is a process informed and influenced by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ and is conducted in an atmosphere of care, respect and joy. Mercy Education is committed to ongoing whole school development in collaboration and partnership with the Board of Management, Staff, Parents/Guardians and the wider community.

CEIST Core Values

The Core Values of CEIST are:

- Promoting Spiritual & Human Development
- Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning
- Showing Respect for Every Person
- Being Just and Responsible

Mission Statement

St. Joseph's Secondary School Castlebar, Co. Mayo is a voluntary Catholic Secondary School for girls under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish Schools' Trust). We aim to provide a holistic Christian Education in co-operation with staff, students, parents/guardians, Board of Management and the Community. We work to create equality for all in an atmosphere of mutual respect. We strive to excellence in learning and endeavour to help each student to reach her full potential in a positive, caring and happy environment.

School Ethos

The characteristic spirit of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar is based on the Mercy Philosophy of Education which espouses the core values of respect, justice, care and joy. The School's Ethos is holistic and person centred. The school encourages students to use and share their talents to their full potential, to recognise God's presence in their lives, to celebrate their Christian faith and to show respect to all persons in all areas of life and work. Students are encouraged by school staff to strive for excellence in learning and to participate to the best of their ability in all aspects of school life.



Rationale

This Policy is rooted in the mission statement and aims of the school, fostering in each student a spirit of self-reliance, independence, co-operation and responsibility and the development of other life skills.

St. Joseph's Secondary School promotes excellence in learning. Homework is an integral part of the learning process and contributes to the development of effective study skills. It helps to consolidate and supplement the work done in class and promotes independence and learning.

Goals

- To ensure consistent approaches to the setting, reviewing and reporting of homework.
- To promote the development in each student of positive study habits and effective study skills.
- To enable each student to develop a capacity to organise and to manage her own work and time.
- To enhance the academic achievements of each student.
- To encourage parents/guardians to take an interest in and to share responsibility for their daughters work and progress.
- To foster and develop a sense of responsibility in each student for her own learning.
- To enable teachers to monitor student progress and to provide feedback.

Policy Content

- Homework set will be purposeful and meaningful to the work of class or to some future work.
- Homework may include written, oral, aural and project work, research, review, revision, reading etc.
- Students will be given advice with homework and study skills.
- Special consideration will be given to students with Special Educational Needs.
- Each subject department will agree guidelines on the setting of homework.
- A rough guide will be suggested for each year group for homework.
- The subject teacher will monitor homework.

Roles and Responsibilities

Board of Management

1. To ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time.
2. To approve the policy.
3. To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the Policy.



Principal and Deputy Principal

1. To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy.
2. To monitor the implementation of the policy.

Subject Teachers

1. To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students and parents.
2. To monitor homework.
3. To develop and promote positive homework skills relevant to their subject area.
4. To liaise with parents/guardians if a student does not do her homework regularly.
5. To liaise with learning support where necessary

The Student Support Team (Principal, Deputy Principal, Career Guidance Counsellor, Learning Support Teacher and School Chaplain) in their specific roles would:

- Provide support and guidance, especially for those students who may experience difficulty.
- Liaise with subject teachers, especially in relation to students with Special Educational Needs.

Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians are encouraged:

1. To support school policy.
2. To provide the necessary support and encouragement for the completion of homework and study and the correct use of the School Journal for recording homework.
3. To contact the school if there are difficulties or concerns regarding homework.

Students

Each student is required:

1. To record assigned homework in her school journal.
2. To attempt all homework set, carefully and consistently.
3. To draw up a homework/study timetable, the length of time commensurate with age and level.
4. To provide an acceptable explanation with a note from a parent/guardian if unable to do her homework.

Implementation Procedure

1. Each Department will develop agreed guidelines on the amount and type of homework that is desirable for each year group.



Success Criteria

1. The quality of homework presented is good and/or improved.
2. There is a positive response from students to homework.
3. The goals are being attained.

Consultation

All partners in the school community i.e. Staff, Student Council (on behalf of the students), Parents' Council, Board of Management have been consulted in drafting this policy document.

Monitoring Procedure

Subject teachers, Deputy Principal and Principal will monitor this policy document on an ongoing basis and note feedback.

Review Procedure

This policy was ratified by Board of Management at its meeting on:

This Policy is operational from: _____

Mr. John Caulfield
Chairperson of Board of Management

Ms. Marie Mac Cabe
Principal