



KILLESTER COLLEGE

HOMEWORK POLICY

PREAMBLE

In offering an education that is Catholic to the young people who choose to come to Killester, we believe that an important part of our mission is to engender a love for learning, independence and responsibility.

'Killester College has as its distinctive mission the provision of Catholic Secondary education for young women.....we value the diversity of our students and strive to develop the whole person.'

We will try therefore to:

*Work co-operatively to develop responsibility, self-discipline and adaptability
Offer educational experiences that develop creativity, initiative and a love for learning....'
(Excerpts from the Killester College Mission Statement)*

The Homework Policy draws on the above statements from Killester's Mission Statement. Homework is broadly defined as 'tasks which enhance a student's learning'. This may include completion of work from that day's lessons, continuation of work on assignments, revision, and organisation and preparatory activities. It is an aspect of learning that can consolidate the school-based program and help forge a link between home and school. The Homework Record book is the medium of contact between home and school.

Homework will involve do-able tasks in terms of skills, abilities and resources, which are part of the current classroom curriculum, and reinforce the aims of classroom learning. Homework encourages and develops students becoming independent learners.

Teachers will guide students to take responsibility for developing their homework/study habits based on each year level's expectations and in the light of the student's family commitments and other life outside school. Parents are encouraged to help their daughters steer a balance between the demands of part-time work and study.

The Homework Policy is printed annually in the students' Homework Record Book.

PROCEDURES

GUIDELINES FOR TEACHERS:

1. In Years 7-10 Subject Teachers should write homework set on the whiteboard.
2. At all year levels all subject teachers will prepare activities at the beginning of each school year and/or semester in order to assist students to develop appropriate study habits, homework skills and note taking.
3. Whilst homework in years 7 & 8 will be more teacher directed, in years 9-12 the emphasis will be placed on students becoming more self directed, developing responsibility for organising their own homework timetables and patterns of work.

4. Homework should not be given for its own sake.
5. Homework will be followed up in subsequent lessons
6. Homework that is submitted should be returned to students after correction within a reasonable time frame.
7. Homework instructions will be clear. Each student should know what is required of her in terms of the quantity and quality of the homework to be completed.
8. Teachers will provide clear instructions on the consequences of not completing homework. Teachers will follow-up and follow through on an consistent basis with students who do not complete their homework.
9. Homework should not be given to a class in lieu of:
 - Not seeing students for a day or more because of the timetabling of classes
 - Lessons missed due to whole school activities.
 However, particularly in the senior levels, students will need to complete catch-up work to keep up to date with their work, if they miss classes due to school based activities.
10. Assignments will primarily take place in school time under the supervision and direction of the subject teacher and will not be given exclusively as homework.
11. Every effort will be made to help students work efficiently in class, ensuring that activities are completed then, rather than at home.
12. Homework should not be given as a punishment (or a reward).

GUIDELINES FOR STUDENTS

1. Homework is an extension of work done in class and students will generally complete homework on the night on which the homework is given. Where students have been given a number of days to complete a task, they should determine which nights they will devote to this work.
2. When students have little set homework, they will be expected to use their time at home to undertake other homework activities, such as:
 - revision
 - practising skills
 - note taking
 - catching up on missed work
 - organizing folders
 - preliminary reading
3. At home, students are encouraged to participate in a variety of important learning experiences aside from homework. These may include:
 - watching documentaries
 - physical exercise, e.g. sport, walking, dancing, gymnastics, etc.
 - discussing current affairs or other relevant issues
 - wide reading
4. It is recommended that, in addition to homework, all students will read each night
5. Teachers will expect work to be neat and clear. Excessive time, however, is not to be used on presentation or rewriting class work, unless pertinent to the task.

6. Students will maintain neat work folders, following guidelines set by teachers.
7. Students are encouraged to develop a homework study routine and familiarise themselves with this by means of a study timetable.
8. Students are expected to devise sound organisational and time management skills to cope with homework demands. Teachers will assist in supporting this by providing students with relevant strategies.

GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

1. At home, students and parents are advised to organise a quiet work area, free from distractions and with plenty of space in which to work.
2. Students are reminded that use can be made of the school library which opens at 8am each morning and closes at 5pm each night.
3. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in the homework their daughters are doing
4. Parents should monitor their daughter's use of the Internet, have the computer in a public area and have a negotiated agreed time limit for usage.
5. Parents are encouraged to communicate any concerns they have about homework via the School Homework Record Book.
6. Parents are to be aware of their daughter not spending too much time on homework each night and be pro-active in intervening on their behalf, if required.

Below are specific guidelines regarding the amount of time students should be spending on Homework. At peak times of the year, e.g. exams, there will be a requirement to spend additional time on tasks.

YEARS 7 AND 8

- Students should spend a maximum of 1.5 hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday
- Weekend and holiday homework will not be given, but students should be encouraged to use this time to catch up on work mentioned in points 2 and 3 above in Guidelines for Students.

YEAR 9

- Students should spend a maximum of 2 hours a night on homework, Monday- Friday.

Weekends and Holidays:

- Students will be encouraged to undertake activities mentioned in points 2 and 3 in Guidelines for Students, with a particular emphasis on revision of notes and working on ongoing assignments.
- Generally, students will not receive holiday homework. However, if in exceptional circumstances homework needs to be done, it must not exceed one hour per subject for the entirety of the holidays.

YEAR 10

- Students will spend a maximum of 2-2½ hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday.

Weekends and holidays:

- Students should be encouraged to use this time to work on activities mentioned in points 2 and 3 in Guidelines for Students, with a particular emphasis on revision.
- Students may be given subject work during the holidays. This should not exceed 1.5 hours per subject for the entirety of the holidays. Students may also be required to gather resources or do preparatory reading. This, however, should be reasonable and achievable. Students are not to be given homework during Work Experience, with the exception of Work Education.

YEAR 11

- Students should spend on average 2-3 hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday

Weekends and Holidays:

- Students should spend **no more than** 4 hours each weekend on research, homework, revision or other related activities
- Students may be given subject work during the holidays. This will not exceed 2 hours per subject for the entirety of the holidays. Students may also be required to gather resources or do preparatory reading. This, however, should be reasonable and achievable.

YEAR 12

- Students are reminded that homework includes completion of work, revision, research and other related school tasks.
- Staff will work with students at the beginning of the year to assist them in determining work expectations and finding a balance between recreation and work.
- Generally, students should not need to spend more than 4 hours a night on homework, Monday-Friday.
- Students should spend 6 hours each weekend on homework.
- Students are expected to utilise study periods effectively, including time spent at home after early dismissals. This time provides an invaluable opportunity for students to complete homework and do some active research, revision or novel reading.
- Students would normally expect to receive homework during the holidays and should use holidays for revision and preparation for the next term.

It should be borne in mind that a happy, well balanced student has a greater chance of success in studies than one who is tense and tired from too much intense post-school work.

Review 2007

Ratified by Stewardship Council 12/08/04