



Coláiste Pobail Acla

Homework Policy

Coláiste Pobail Acla,
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Achill,
Co. Mayo.

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Contents

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Rationale**
- 3. Partnership**
- 4. Roles and Responsibilities**
 - 4.1. Students are required
 - 4.2. Homework/Study Periods
 - 4.3. Parents/Guardians are encouraged
 - 4.4. Subject Teachers are expected
 - 4.5. Class Tutor are expected
 - 4.6. Principal, Deputy Principal
 - 4.7. Board of Management
- 5. Time Spent on Homework**
- 6. Declaration**

1. Introduction

This policy is rooted in the school's fundamental aim to foster in all students a spirit of self-reliance, independence, co-operation and responsibility and to provide them with skills for life-long learning. Homework is work specified by the subject teacher and written into the Homework Diary. Study is what you do when you are finished your homework, it may not necessarily be noted in the Diary.

2. Rationale

Regular homework/study is seen by Coláiste Pobail Acla teachers as a vital aspect of the learning process when it is properly structured leading to independent learning, sound study skills and creativity. It also reinforces the learning in the classroom and allows students to take responsibility. In first year and second year it develops necessary skills of writing, reading, time management, and study techniques in preparation for State Examinations in the future. It is also seen as a good tool to monitor progress, to motivate and to give feedback to students. The skills of reading and writing are seen to be particularly important for International Students.

Homework/study for students in third year, fifth year and sixth year is vital to achieving their full potential in the State Examinations, allowing progression to third level study. Students with special education needs should be assigned homework in accordance with their ability in consultation with special needs co-ordinator, special needs teachers and Parents/Guardians.

3. Partnership

The Class Tutor will outline the Schools Policy to all First-Year students at induction and to each new student on first arriving at the school. The Class Tutor will explain to students the role they have to play in implementing the school policy and the rationale behind the policy. Class Tutors will continue to do this at the start of each subsequent year during a student's schooling in Coláiste Pobail Acla.

There are at least five partners involved in the successful implementation of the school's policy on Homework/Study. They each have a significant role to play. They are;

- The Student
- The Parent/Guardian
- The Subject Teacher
- Class Tutors
- School Management

4. Roles and Responsibilities

4.1. Students are required;

- To use the Homework Diary to note down homework set by the subject teacher
- To do homework set, both oral/learning and written/practical
- To present written homework properly and on time
- To be aware that Parents/Guardians will be informed when homework is not done, and detention may be arranged to enable the student to complete the work under supervision
- To make every effort to be up to date with homework even when they are absent

The role of Parents/Guardians is seen as vital to the successful implementation of the school's policy on Homework/Study.

4.2. Homework/Study Periods

Where a student has not been assigned work for a class period, he/she must use this time as a homework/study period. This is supervised by a member of staff and will be very beneficial to the student.

4.3. Parents/Guardians are encouraged;

- To support school policy.
- To provide suitable conditions for homework.
- To ensure that the suggested amount of time is spent on homework.
- To monitor the Homework Diary so that they are aware of what homework is given and for teacher comments positive and negative.
- To discuss with the teacher or the class tutor any problems that arise concerning homework.

4.4. Subject Teachers are expected;

- To set and correct homework.
- To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students.
- To instruct students in homework/study skills.
- To provide feedback to Parents/Guardians via the Diary when a difficulty arises and when a student presents good homework.
- To keep records of homework set, grades and comments.
- To advise Students on good study techniques for their subject.
- To be mindful of students with special needs when assigning homework.
- To liaise with class tutor when issues repeatedly arise around the completion of homework by any student.

4.5. Class Tutors are expected;

- To identify students experiencing difficulties.
- To provide support and guidance, especially for those having trouble.
- To liaise with subject teachers and support teachers, especially in relation to consideration for students with special educational needs.
- To discuss with students as part of pastoral care how they are getting on with their homework/study.
- To contact Parents/Guardians when persistent difficulties arise.

4.6. Principal, Deputy Principal

- To establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy
- To monitor the implementation of the policy
- To make sanctions available for students who regularly fail to complete homework

4.7. Board of Management

- To approve the policy
- To consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy
- To ensure that the policy is evaluated and updated from time to time

5. Time Spent on Homework

The amount of time per subject per night will depend on the year group, language barriers and levels of ability. The amount of homework assigned by the teacher will also depend on the subjects in the timetable for each day such as where practical subjects are involved there may be less homework specified, this is where study replaces homework on those nights. Below you will find the minimum students should spend on homework each night.

The following specific times are suggested.

- 1st Year 10 to 15 minutes per subject. Minimum total of 1 hour
- 2nd Year 1.5 hrs + Study
- 3rd Year 2 hrs + Study
- 5th Year 3 hrs + Study
- 6th Year 3 hrs + Study

6. Declaration

This Coláiste Pobail Acla Policy was formed following consultation with all staff, members of the Board of Management, Parents/Guardians and the Student Council. It is recommended that this policy be reviewed every three years or whenever it is deemed necessary by School Management. It was adopted by the Board of Management of Coláiste Pobail Acla on:

Signed: _____

Mr. Pat Kilbane

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date: _____

Signed: _____

Mr. Paul Fahy

Board Secretary & School Principal (Acting)

Date: _____