



DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL  
DOWNPATRICK

# **HOMEWORK POLICY**

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 Among the personal qualities that a student discovers through private home study are self-discipline, perseverance and independent learning and motivation. Homework is an essential ingredient to the overall educational experience of students and complements the work carried out during the school day.
- 1.2 Each department has its own policy which derives from the whole school policy.

## **2.0 Purposes of Homework**

- 2.1 to continue and complete work already begun in class
- 2.2 to consolidate work done in class by ..e.g. doing further examples
- 2.3 to allow students to catch up on work missed due to absence
- 2.4 to encourage students to develop regular revision of topics already covered
- 2.5 to encourage students to prepare for a lesson in advance
- 2.6 to encourage students to develop habits of independent study

## **3.0 Nature of Homework**

- 3.1 Homework as set in different Areas of Study involves a variety of activities including written work, reading, research/investigations, learning and revision of the day's classroom activities.
- 3.2 Students must become adept at time management and make sure they do not leave these longer pieces to be done on the night before they are due.

## **4.0 Quality of Homework**

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of students to ensure that homeworks are completed and presented on time and that they are of suitable standard.
- 4.2 Subject teachers are expected to make regular checks of the homeworks they have given and indicate on the homework books that this has been done.
- 4.3 On some occasions the homework set will challenge students and they should learn to persevere at the task and produce evidence of having done so.
- 4.4 Heads of Departments will, through their departmental policies, ensure that homeworks are assigned and corrected on a regular basis.

## **5.0 Homework Diary**

- 5.1 Each student is supplied with an electronic Homework Diary accessed through their iPad. At the beginning of the year pupils join their classes and as a teacher enters homework in his APP it will appear in all the homework diary APPS on pupils iPads. This includes pupils who are absent and does away with the need for pupils to record homework. As they do their homework the homework moves from up and coming to completed. If homework is not completed it moves to the late column.
- 5.2 Students must be aware of the tasks set for homework and clearly understand what is expected of them. If in any doubt they should ask the subject teacher for clarification before the end of the lesson.

## **6.0 Good Homework Practice**

- 6.1 Guidance on good homework practice is an integral part of departmental homework policies. Students will be directed by subject teachers on the standards expected in matters of homework.

- 6.2 As part of the school's Pastoral programme delivered through Form Classes and the weekly Tutorial, students will be guided in areas such as the importance of producing high quality homework, effective study and revision techniques and time management.
- 6.3 It is envisaged that as students progress through the school and attain greater maturity, they will need less direction and take greater responsibility for their own learning.

## **7.0 Volume of Homework**

A summary of the homework policy is sent to each parent at the beginning of the year. Included in this letter will be an approximation of the minimum amount of homework for each subject.

## **8.0 Parental Input**

- 8.1 The school recognises and appreciates the important role that parents and guardians play in the education of the students. They, together with the student and the teacher, make up the partners in the educational process, and their co-operation in homework is essential.
- 8.2 Parents are asked to ensure that students develop effective home study habits by providing a quiet area when possible where students can study without distraction. It is generally well accepted that effective study cannot take place while such devices as televisions, radios and personal stereos are switched on.
- 8.3 Parents and students are asked to ensure that part time jobs do not impinge on the expected nightly study sessions.
- 8.4 If parents have any concern about homework they may contact the student's subject teacher or Form Teacher. Parents are encouraged to monitor homework by regularly inspecting their son's homework diary APP and the homework books.

## **9.0 Review and Evaluation**

- 9.1 The Heads of Department, working with Senior Management will keep the policy under review and evaluation. The use of homework diaries is checked each week by the Form teachers and a monthly report given to the Year heads. If three homeworks are missed for the same teacher a letter (PLH) is automatically sent informing the parents of the dates of these missed homeworks. These details are store on the pupil's record which is held on the school database.

## **10.0 Homework Support Club**

- 10.1 Rational: The homework support club is a means of support for those pupils who wish to avail of a supervised room in which to complete their homework. It is also used to change the habits of pupils who persistently miss homework's.
- 10.2 Pupils are free to use the room with agreement of the supervising teacher. Pupils who receive a PLH **must** attend the support club for 1 day. The class teacher who issues the PLH is responsible for arranging this sanction with the supervising teacher.

Pupils who fail to attend must complete their set number of days. If this failure to attend continues the principal will meet with parents to address this issue.

- 10.3 The supervising teacher will produce monthly attendance reports for SMT. The principal will meet the parents of those pupils who are regularly sent to the support room to help bring about improvement.