

# Rice College Homework & Study Policy

(Reviewed November 2018, in accordance with LAOS 2016, and the principles of Junior Cycle Wellbeing, with a view to benefitting the whole school.)

One of the indicators of ‘**Wellbeing**’ is ‘**Resilient**’, which is described in part as “feeling confident...having the skills to deal with life’s challenges”. Completion of homework to an acceptable standard, in an acceptable amount of time goes some way towards developing this. Another descriptor attached to “Resilient” is “believing that with effort they can achieve” - highly effective feedback on homework assigned, and in keeping with the AFL strategies identified in our SIP, will develop this in our students.

Homework also develops the students’ “**Awareness...**of themselves as learners and knowing how they can improve” - another indicator of “**Wellbeing**”.

## **Purpose of Homework**

Homework is also designed to meet the following purposes:

- Reinforce and strengthen concepts taught in class;
- Complete unfinished class work;
- Review and practise previous learning;
- Develop independent study skills and work habits;
- Develop responsibility and good time management;
- Enhance academic achievement.

## **Suggested Duration of Homework & Study**

Guidelines on the duration of homework and study times are outlined in the following table:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Time (Hours)</b>
<b>1</b>	1½ approx.
<b>2</b>	2½ approx.
<b>3</b>	3 approx.
<b>5</b>	3 approx.
<b>6</b>	3½ approx.

Laos 2016/Domain 4: Teachers’ Collective/Collaborative Practice identifies ‘highly effective practice’ as working ‘very effectively with each other and with parents to support students with learning needs’.

Please note that allowances must be made for student ability and for individual learning styles.

The Homework assigned should have a clear purpose with the amount reflecting an awareness of the need to balance homework fairly between all subjects and adopt a balanced approach throughout the student’s week.

### **Role of the Student**

- Accurately record homework in *Student Journal*;
- Seek clarification (if necessary) from teacher;
- Ensure he/she has all the necessary materials;
- Complete all homework to an acceptable standard
- In cases when a student is absent from class for extra-curricular or other school related events, the onus is on that student to complete any assignments given in his/her absence. The Teacher will ensure that the student has adequate opportunity to find out the nature of the assignments.
- Where a difficulty arises with homework try:
  - a variety of problem- solving techniques;
  - asking a family member for help;
  - contacting a classmate.
- Ensure *Student Journal* is signed when required;
- Discuss with your teacher any difficulties experienced in completing homework;
- Understand consequences for non-completion of homework.

These actions should help students to be aware of the purpose of the homework assigned, and how it can help them to grow as learners.

Students should feel a sense of responsibility for their learning, and a sense of ownership, thus increasing their self- esteem.

They should develop skills which help them to manage themselves, their time, and their studies.

Students who feel supported, at home and at school, tend to have higher self-confidence, and to have greater success in reaching their potential.

### **Role of the Parent/Guardian**

- Prioritise homework
- Provide a location appropriate for doing homework (i.e. well lit and free of distractions such as television, radio etc);
- Assist in the development of learning strategies (i.e. organizational skills, time management);
- Establish and consistently maintain a regular daily time for doing homework, if possible
- Sign *Student Journal* when requested;
- Assist in obtaining the necessary resources to complete assignments;
- Monitor homework;
- Communicate with teachers if difficulties arise.

### **Role of the Teacher**

- Provide a balance of short term and long term assignments;
- Assign a variety of homework activities, consistent with the Criteria for Success outlined in class, thus ensuring students are aware of the meaningful purpose of the assignment
- Provide clear guidelines and expectations for daily work;
- Provide clear outlines for long term projects;
- Provide homework clarification when necessary;
- Provide time to record homework in *Student Journal*;
- Check completed homework regularly and provide highly effective feedback consistent with AFL strategies;
- Be sensitive to individual learning styles and needs;
- Communicate with parents where a pattern of unsatisfactory homework emerges: failure to submit homework, incomplete homework, copied homework, unacceptable standards etc
- Monitor that the *Student Journal* is signed by parents when requested;

### **Role of the Year Head**

- Monitor the recording and completion of homework on a weekly basis
- Facilitate regular student self-evaluation of performance in homework, during class and in formative and summative assessments
- Provide positive reinforcement of achievements in homework and assessments
- Provide guidance in how to improve performance, if necessary
- Communicate with parents where necessary

**NB: If extra work is given as a form of discipline for a student it is essential that the work is consistent, has a clear educational purpose for the student involved, and takes into account the ability of that student.**

**Lines are not to be given to students.**

Any matters arising, in relation to homework and study, disciplinary or otherwise, will be dealt with in the strictest of confidence, and in compliance with GDPR 2018. Any paperwork arising as a result of same will be securely stored by the Year Head.

Reviewed by Subcommittee: 7/11/18

Reviewed by Staff: 22/11/18

Reviewed by Parents Association: 3/12/18

Reviewed by Student Council: 4/12/18

Ratified by BOM: