

Rice College Ennis



(An Edmund Rice School)

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Rice College Homework & Study Policy

School Name: Rice College, Ennis, Co. Clare

Address: New Road, Ennis, Co Clare. V95 FV10

Details: Rice College is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a co-educational school.

School Management: The Board of Management of Rice College is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Mission Statement:

Rice College is operated according to the religious and educational philosophy of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter (ERST).

We strive to live up to Christian values and show genuine concern for our school community.

Our core aims are to provide a broad and comprehensive education and to recognise the needs and develop the talents of each person.

We strive to enrich all those with whom we are privileged to come in contact, we strive to succeed.

Ethos:

Inspired by the vision of Blessed Edmund Rice, the Christian Brother School gives priority to education in a living faith whereby students grow to appreciate the life and mission of Jesus Christ with a view to being committed to the world as he was. Has a special concern for the poor and underprivileged. His aim was to develop a curriculum which promotes the harmonious growth of the whole person.

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Introduction

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

Rationale

Homework is work assigned by a subject teacher for completion by the student outside of school time. It may be written, oral, aural, reading, project based work or revision work. It will be challenging, and where appropriate, differentiated and purposefully designed to reinforce or expand on classroom learning. Regular homework is a valuable aspect of the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study skills. It consolidates and supplements the work done in class and promotes independent learning and creativity. It strengthens home school links and **offers those at home insights into what is being taught in the classroom**. Homework is also a very valuable means of enhancing learning which contributes to students' overall wellbeing.

In updating this policy we aim to acknowledge the evolving methodologies and pedagogy in the context of the new junior cycle and we will continue to monitor in relation to the senior cycle review.

Aims of this policy:

- To inform the school community of the school's position regarding homework.
- Promote uniformity and consistency in the approach to homework.

Purpose of Homework

Homework is also designed to meet the following purposes:

- Reinforce and strengthen concepts taught in class;
- Complete unfinished class work;
- To enhance the educational experience
- To challenge students of all abilities
- Review and practise previous learning and skills;
- To foster ownership of learning and develop the skills required for independent learning
- Develop responsibility and good time management;
- Enhance academic achievement.
- To develop organisational skills through the use of the student journal, and online classroom correspondence

Suggested Duration of Homework & Study

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

Year	Time (Hours)
1.	1-1½ approx.
2	1½-2 approx.
3	3 approx.
5	3 approx.
6	3½ approx.

Laos 2022/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.
- 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

- 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 feedback**.
- 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

- **Check Homework journals**
- Monitor the completion of homework.
- 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.

Policy Review:

This Homework & Study Policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis. The policy is circulated amongst all staff and can be viewed on the school's website, www.ricecollege.ie.

Approval: This policy has been approved by Rice College Board of Management on 28/11/24.



Signed: _____ **Date:** 28/11/24

Chairperson, Board of Management.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louis Mulqueen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and 'M'.

Signed: _____ **Date:** 28/11/24

Principal, Rice College.