



Coláiste Chú Chulainn
Cúram. Forbairt. Feabhas.

Homework Policy

Coláiste Chú Chulainn, Dundalk, Co. Louth

Homework Policy

1. Scope

This policy applies to all school personnel including volunteers, teaching and non-teaching personnel who interact with students in carrying out their day to day duties.

2. Rationale

Homework is an important component of the Coláiste Chú Chulainn teaching and learning strategy as it:

- Enables students to review and practise the skills learned during class
- Leads to improvements in learning
- Generates an understanding of the benefits of learning
- Improves student confidence in their learning process
- Encourages students to become independent learners
- Re-enforces class learning and prepares the student for the next lesson
- Provides a platform for further learning
- Provides feedback to the teacher on student progress
- Builds a link between the home and school
- Nurtures responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management
- Improves literacy and numeracy
- Helps students to construct knowledge, develop deeper understandings and make links between the concepts to which they have been introduced during lessons
- Provides an opportunity for students to apply their learning

3. What is Obair Bhaile?

Obair bhaile (homework) can take many forms, depending on the subject and the topic.

The following is a sample list of the various forms that obair bhaile can take:

- Answering questions in a copy or on a worksheet
- Practice assignments
- Preparation of materials e.g. for Art or Home Economics
- Research for a topic or for a project, to be completed over a set time
- Learning information from notes, worksheets or other sources
- Revision of topics covered
- Learning vocabulary or definitions
- Writing up missed work

- Finishing work not completed in class
- Reading
- Writing up experiments
- Practical work
- Transferring skills to new situations
- Practising listening/spoken skills/musical skills
- Writing essays
- Watching television programmes and reporting
- Activities using the iPad

4. General Guidelines regarding Obair Bhaile

Coláiste Chú Chulainn recommends that homework should be:

- Related to the ability of the student at that time
- Administered at a differential level to accommodate the needs of all learners
- Used to generate ideas and give rise to independent research
- Clear, fair, realistic and consistent

Students are encouraged to talk to their Múinteoir/Caomhnóir if they are experiencing difficulty with their obair bhaile.

The amount of time spent on obair bhaile varies considerably from student to student. It depends on the subject, topic, daily schedule of lessons and the presence or absence of distractions. The following is intended to act as a guideline only. Parents/Guardians should contact their son/daughter's Caomhnóir if it is needed to discuss their obair bhaile.

Recommended Time to be devoted to homework on a nightly basis (guideline only).

Year Group	Suggested Time
First Year	1 – 1.5hrs
Second Year	2 – 2.5hrs
Third Year	2.5 – 3hrs

5. Important Notes:

At some point during their time in Coláiste Chú Chulainn, a student may experience difficulty with their obair bhaile. If a student fails to present their obair bhaile on one occasion or if it is not to a high standard for that student, the teacher may record this in the notes section of the dialann for the parent/guardian to sign. This is simply to communicate the incident to the parent/guardian. The student will be asked to complete the work that night instead.

If obair bhaile is not presented on more than one occasion, the teacher must inform the parents/guardians of their concern by writing a note in the notes section of the dialann. Additional obair bhaile may be assigned to the student or the student may be asked to complete the work missed at lunchtime.

Classroom teachers, caomhnóirí and meantóirí will make every effort to support the student in designing a homework plan. Parents/guardians may also be contacted by the teacher/caomhnóir to discuss their concern.

If a student repeatedly fails to produce obair bhaile, is not producing a high enough standard, or there is no evidence that they are even attempting their obair bhaile, then the Caomhnóir will arrange a meeting to discuss this serious matter with the parents/guardians. Principal or Deputy Principal may join the meeting if available.

The student may be placed on Homework Report, where the caomhnóir meets with the student at the end of each day to ensure that homework is accurately recorded and parents/guardians sign the journal each night to verify that each piece of homework is complete.

If a student is experiencing difficulty in a subject(s) learning support may be recommended for a period of time to help the student with his/her areas of difficulty.

It may be recommended that the student attend homework club for extra support from teachers with homework.

In some cases the student may be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the school Code of Conduct.

6. Links to other school policies and curriculum

Our school policies need to be consistent with one another, within the framework of the overall School Plan. Relevant school policies already in place or being developed or reviewed, shall be examined with reference to the homework policy and any implications which it has for them shall be addressed.

The following policies may be among those considered:

- Code of Behaviour
- Teaching and Learning Policy

7. Monitoring the implementation of the policy

This policy has been made available to school personnel, the parent's association and members of the school community.

The implementation of the policy shall be monitored by the principal and updates reported to the board of management when necessary.

7. Reviewing and evaluating the policy

On-going review and evaluation should take cognisance of changing information or guidelines (e.g. from the Department of Education and Skills or the Department of Children and Youth Affairs), legislation and feedback from parents/guardians, students, school staff and others.

By and on behalf of Board of Management

Date

Principal

Date



Coláiste Chú Chulainn
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Policy ratification

Policy:	HOMEWORK
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This policy has been communicated to our school community of School Management, Staff, Students, Parents and Guardians, both directly and/or through appointed representatives.

The policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of Coláiste Chú Chulainn, properly convened, at its meeting of

Day/Date

Signed: _____

Chairperson

Date: _____