



# Erne Integrated College

## Homework Policy

### **A) Introduction:**

Regular, planned homework can facilitate effective learning in a variety of ways. The main purposes of homework/independent study are to:

1. Increase the pace of learning
2. Develop independent learning routines, which are vital in the later stages of secondary education
3. Enable the learner to work in quiet, private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful activity of all kinds
4. Consolidate skills learned in the classroom
5. Enable the learner to use resources, and other sources of information, that may not always be available in the classroom
6. Enable parents and others to be involved, where appropriate, in the learner's progress
7. provide opportunities for long term research, and other extended work
8. provide the important reference points for revision purposes
9. Provide the learner with experience of working to deadlines, and personal organisation

### **B) Homework Policy**

1. A homework timetable is issued to everyone. Please try to keep it.
2. All subject areas set at least one homework per week, for each class.
3. The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, classes and topics of study. Homework may involve the following:
  - i. Reading/writing/spelling. At KS3, reading books are taken from the library, as a matter of course.
  - ii. Carrying out a project. This may involve research and the collection of information for an individual, or group project
  - iii. Completing an exercise to consolidate, or apply aspects of the class work, such as writing up practical work.
  - iv. Learning notes, diagrams, spellings
  - v. Watching a TV programme
  - vi. Observing/recording

4. Presentation of work is important, as per College policy. Student should write in blue or black ink, and work should be dated and titled. Neatness and legibility should be positively encouraged.
5. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that there is a clear pattern of follow - up to homework
6. Marking homework forms an integral part of assessment. We should aim to return marked homework to students, as soon as possible.
7. Work should be marked in red or green ink, and where appropriate, positive comments should be included.
8. Time should be spent in returning work to students
9. Staff should keep an accurate record of mark/grades allocated. Homework should be marked as per subject policy, which should be in line with the agreed College Assessment Policy.

### **C) How does the College help students with the organisation of their Homework?**

1. Each student is given a Homework Diary at the beginning of the academic year. A Homework timetable is pasted in here, so that the students and their parents are aware of when homework should be set, and when it is due in.
2. We try to ensure that the homework instructions are clear, and that all students have time to copy down what is expected.
3. We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is positive to students.
4. Form teachers are expected to check and sign the diary on a weekly basis.
5. Parents are asked to sign the diary every week.

### **D) How can Parents/Guardians help with Homework?**

1. Check that homework details are filled in clearly, and regularly, in the Homework Diary. Sign the Diary once a week.
2. Help your child to organise his/her time to their best advantage, so that homework is not left to the last minute, or forgotten.
3. Take a positive and active interest in your child's work, at home, rather than just insisting that it is done.
4. Let the College know if there are problems with homework that you cannot resolve. Perhaps your child seems to be doing too much, or is finding the work too hard/too easy. Contact the Year Curriculum Coordinator, or Form Teacher, who will be glad to help you.

### **E) Failure to Hand in Homework/Unsatisfactory Work:**

We expect completed homework to be given in on time. This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines, and facilitates staff with their

marking schedules. If homework is not given in, appropriate action should be taken:

1. The class teacher will ascertain with the student if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the homework. The Subject Coordinator, Form Teacher and YCC should be kept informed.
2. If the failure is formed of persistent problems.
3. The student should be placed in a lunch-time detention, and where appropriate this may be replaced by an after-school detention.
4. The YCC may contact the parents. Further referral may be necessary.