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***New Cross College***

***Homework Policy***

***Mission Statement:***

Our school is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School that aims to provide a safe, inclusive, academic environment shaped by mutual respect.

We respect the dignity of the individual person and are sensitive to the needs of a diverse society.

We aim to make our school a happy and caring environment which recognises the needs of each individual. We believe that education flourishes in a school where good relationships are encouraged, where people feel valued and there is tolerance, fairness and support for those in difficulty.

We believe in helping all to develop their confidence, self-esteem and talents so that they may take their place in society as responsible and mature young adults.

***Rationale:***

The rationale for developing a Homework Policy is to inform the whole school community of the school’s position regarding homework and to promote uniformity and consistency in the approach to homework.

New Cross College believes that homework plays an important role in the provision of a meaningful educational experience. It enables students to focus on developing self-awareness, the skills of self -management, coping and decision making. It allows students to revisit and reinforce key ideas and topics for the broad-based curriculum offered in New Cross College.

The self-discipline required to complete a homework task should be fostered from the beginning of first year and continue throughout all stages of secondary education. Student journals should contain a record of all work to be carried out at home and its correct use leads to vastly improved time management and organisational skills. These journals provide a link between parents/guardians and teachers and are key to important communication between all concerned.

Homework encourages students to work independently and engage in self-assessment, reflection and the learning process. Homework also benefits the teacher as he/she can readily assess the progress of each individual student and recognise potential problems at an early stage.

Homework set by subject teachers will be challenging and purposeful and enhance student learning & motivation. It should be coordinated, regular, appropriate, marked promptly and followed with relevant student feedback.

***Aims of this policy:***

• To enhance the educational experience through the provision of a broad range of purposeful homework tasks.

• To foster self-discipline and self-motivation in the student, which will be beneficial throughout their school career and develops the key skill ‘Managing Myself’.

• To engage in self-assessment and reflection as part of homework.

• To consolidate or extend work carried out in the classroom.

• To create a meaningful link between teachers, parents and students, through journal correspondence.

• To develop an understanding of school journal entry, deadlines, and time management, therefore increasing organisational skills of students.

***Context of this policy/Links with other Policies:***

The emphasis of this homework policy is on the role of the whole school community in implementing it. This is a whole school policy and other school policies will be informed by it e.g.

• Code of Behaviour Policy

• SPHE Policy

• Wellbeing Policy

• Internet Safety Policy

• Dignity in the Workplace Policy

• Child Protection Guidelines

• Critical Incident Policy

• Acceptable usage policy

• Extra-Curricular Activities Policy

• Intercultural Policy

• Safety Statement

• Special Educational Needs Policy

***How Homework Develops the Key Skills of Junior Cycle:***

There are a number of key skills that it is envisaged that students will learn, practice and refine throughout their school journey over the course of their 6 years in New Cross College. As students’ progress from Junior cycle to Senior cycle the onus is on students to take on further responsibility and take ownership of their own learning.

Our aim is that homework will foster the development of key skills in line with the Junior Cycle.

* Managing Myself. Homework tasks encourage students to work independently. It also helps them develop strategies to make considered decisions, to take action and to reflect on their progress.
* Communicating: Homework helps students develop good communication skills using a variety of media. It also develops learners’ confidence in communicating, expressing opinions, writing, making oral presentations.
* Being Creative: Homework tasks enable students to develop their imagination and creativity as they explore different ways of thinking and learning.
* Working with Others: Homework may be completed alone or as part of a group e.g. pair or group project work, drama performance, using ICT for a group presentation.
* Managing Information and Thinking: Homework tasks may involve gathering, recording, organising and evaluating information and data. Homework may also promote student self-reflection and fosters critical thinking.
* Being Literate: Homework develops literacy by encouraging students to write/read/speak for a variety of purposes, to express ideas clearly and accurately, and to explore and create a variety of texts, including multi-modal texts. Homework assigned which promotes literacy helps students to develop their understanding and enjoyment of words and language.
* Being Numerate: Homework tasks may involve students expressing ideas mathematically. Estimating, predicting and calculating. Students develop a positive disposition towards investigating, reasoning and problem solving. Homework linked to numeracy may require students to see patterns, trends or to gather, interpret and represent data.
* Staying Well: Homework tasks in some subject areas may develop some of the 6 Indicators of Wellbeing and our Wellbeing programme aims to foster happy, confident, responsible and resilient students who feel connected to New Cross College. It is also important to focus on wellbeing and try and promote cross curricular links/learning in subjects such as PE, SPHE, Home Economics and Religious Education.

***Roles & Expectations:***

***Students:***

• Record all homework in their journal correctly and promptly.

• Ensure they understand the homework before leaving the classroom.

• Understand that homework will vary in nature e.g. Reading, revising, researching, study &

preparation for the next day.

• Make sure their homework is their own work and not copied from another student.

• Present written homework in a neat and legible manner.

• Have necessary books and equipment to complete homework.

• Students need to take responsibility for managing their time affectively and produce good

quality work in order to reach their potential.

• Where possible students should ensure they get and complete any homework missed due to school activities or absence from a classmate or teacher.

• Students should communicate with their teacher if there is an issue with the completion of work.

***Parents:***

• Check student’s journal each week and sign it.

• Provide an explanatory note if homework is not completed.

• Monitor the completion of homework.

• Play an active role in their student’s homework to help with time management.

• Ensure that students are spending adequate time on homework and revision.

• Support the school with any sanctions given for incomplete homework.

***Teachers:***

* Homework given by teachers is to enhance, reinforce and supplement classroom learning. Homework strives to create students who have independent learning skills.

• Teachers need to ensure that students record homework in school journal by allocating time before the end of class to write homework in their journal.

• Homework needs to be clearly explained by teachers and understood by students.

• Homework should reflect classwork or be preparation for the following lesson.

• Homework given by teachers should be of a variety of tasks and criteria.

• If applicable. resources needed for homework may need to be clarified.

• Teachers need to be clear to students in relation to meeting homework/project deadlines.

• Teachers can advise students of estimated time for completion of work.

• Teachers need to be mindful of student’s overall workload.

***Teacher Feedback:***

* Positive feedback by Teachers should act as a motivator for students to develop and improve their learning.

• Teacher feedback should be in a variety of forms

• Feedback should be positive, encouraging and instructional

• Feedback can be directional and with clear action for the next step given

***School Supports***

* ***Homework Club***:

The Homework Club is run after school by the school librarian and takes place in the library. It is aimed at students who might need guidance and help with their homework or those who want a quiet, comfortable place to study. It is open to our whole student community and helps students to get into a routine of doing homework each evening. It runs Monday to Thursday after school at 3.50. The Homework Club very much operates under the Code of Behaviour and Homework Policy within New Cross College.

* ***After School Study:***

After School Study for 3rd and 6th years takes place twice weekly for one hour after school. Students are supervised in a classroom by a qualified teacher from New Cross College. Attendance is voluntary and there is no fee charged by New Cross College for this service. In order to provide an environment conducive to study, strict discipline is enforced and poor behaviour is not tolerated. After school study very much operates under the Code of Behaviour within New Cross College.

***School Sanctions:***

1. Parents/guardians are advised to check the journal weekly to achieve an understanding of the homework that is being assigned and to alert them to any issues surrounding the completion of that homework.

2. If homework is not presented this will be recorded in the student journal. This note should be read, and counter signed by parents/guardians.

3. Teachers may allocate penalty work to student in addition to a note in journal. Penalty work given will be noted in the journal also.

4. Where necessary and when homework is repeatedly not done in one or more subject areas Year Heads may impose sanctions such as Year Head detention/Phone call home etc.

5.The sanctions set down in our schools Code of Behaviour apply.

Ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting on the 20/2/24

Signed: 

Date: 20/2/24