

Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont



Homework Policy

Introduction

Our Lady of Mercy College is a Catholic, all girls, voluntary secondary school which caters for students of all religions and backgrounds in accordance with current equal status legislation.

Mission Statement

The core values of Our Lady of Mercy College are respect for all and the nurturing of individual potential, academically, spiritually, and culturally, as a member of the school community and in the spirit of Mercy Ethos.

The Mercy Ethos

Mercy Education is committed to ongoing whole-school development in collaboration and partnership with the Board of Management, Staff, Pupils, Parents and the wider community. Our school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1957 and became part of CEIST in 2007. Our current student population is approx 380



CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust) was established by five Catholic Religious Congregations – Daughters of Charity, Presentation Sisters, Sisters of the Christian Retreat, Sisters of Mercy, and Missionaries of the Sacred Heart – to provide a sustainable moral and legal trustee framework for post-primary Catholic education in Ireland. Rooted in the founding vision of its Congregations, CEIST emphasises the dignity and rights of individuals, empowers the vulnerable, and prepares young people to be agents of social transformation. The Trust is dedicated to fostering inclusive, hospitable, excellent, and compassionate learning environments inspired by Gospel values and the wisdom of its Founders. CEIST promotes collaborative school faith communities, supports staff in their essential roles, and addresses the evolving needs of youth. Engaging in ecumenical dialogue, CEIST values its Catholic identity while working with other Christian traditions and all people of goodwill to advocate for the poor, justice, and environmental stewardship, respecting diversity.

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Our Lady of Mercy College is under CEIST Trusteeship. The core values of CEIST are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people at the heart of our school: students, staff and parents. Its key principles focus on:

- Promoting spiritual and human development.
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning.
- Showing respect for every person.
- Creating community.
- Being just and responsible

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, Our Lady of Mercy College provides the conditions and experiences which will promote the development of the full potential of each person including the spiritual, moral, physical, social, aesthetic, intellectual and vocational development.

We strive to ensure that every member of the school community is held in very high regard and their dignity, worth and individuality is respected. We aim to build a sense of community based on Christian values.

Please note that the term parents is used to describe legal guardians also.

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 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.

Homework Policy Statement at Our Lady of Mercy College we believe that homework plays a pivotal role in the provision of a successful educational experience. The self-discipline required to complete a homework task should be fostered from the beginning of First Year

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because it is vital through all stages of secondary education and beyond. Student journals should list all work to be carried out at home and their correct use leads to vastly improved time management and organisational skills. All students have access to an online platform google classroom for subjects where classwork and homework is posted as appropriate. Homework leads to students working independently. It helps students to revisit and reflect on work that has taken place in the classroom, and to encourage further reflection with the aim of enhancing academic achievement and developing student skills. Alternative materials and sources of information not always available in the classroom may be utilised at home, and parents may become involved in certain projects. Homework also benefits the teacher and they can readily assess the progress of each individual student and identify potential problems at an early stage.

Aims of Homework

- To consolidate work carried out in the classroom
- To enhance the educational experience
- To challenge students of all abilities
- To foster ownership of learning and develop the skills required for independent learning
- To create a meaningful link between teachers, parents and students.
- To develop organisational skills through the use of the student journal, and online classroom correspondence.

Guidance for Parents Parents are encouraged:

- To create an environment where all homework tasks can be completed effectively away from distractions.
- To empower students to establish a homework routine To monitor their child's progress by listening to any difficulties which may encounter
- To inform the school or class teacher of any reasons why a student was unable to complete a homework assignment
- To acknowledge and sign notes from teachers
- To liaise with relevant personnel should any concern arise regarding homework
- To ensure that part-time jobs held by students do not interfere with the full and proper completion of homework.

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Guidance for Students

- Students must record all assigned homework in their journals
- Students must complete all homework to the best of their ability
- It is the responsibility of students involved in extracurricular activities or who may be absent for other reasons to ascertain and complete homework assigned in their absence. Students should regularly engage with online platforms as appropriate.
- Students should seek clarification from the teacher on any aspect of their homework of which they are unsure
- Students must ensure that their homework is completed and available for correction by the assigned deadline
- Students are expected to present all homework on time and in a tidy, legible and organised form
- Students should seek guidance from subject teachers on best study practice and techniques in the relevant subject areas.
- Students may seek guidance on developing a study plan from their Yearhead or Guidance Counsellor if necessary

The Assignment of Homework for Students with Additional Educational Needs

- Any relevant information relating to individual students with additional educational needs (AEN) is provided to staff by school management and/or the AEN coordinator and/or the Student Support team
- The AEN Coordinator and Special Education teachers (SETs) work with individual subject teachers as required
- Students with AEN are identified primarily at Junior Cycle level through a range of measures. Students may be assessed and appropriate support put in place. Each student's experience and grasp of a subject is naturally going to be different. It is not expected that the same standards will be achievable from all students. Each student is encouraged to develop to the best of their ability and to engage with their subjects at the appropriate academic level.
- Subject teachers will collaborate where possible with SETs to ensure class tasks are manageable. Class teachers are responsible for the learning of all students in their class and must differentiate where appropriate to cater for students with AEN Feedback for Students Students look mainly to teachers for a response on the quality of their work.

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Effective marking and feedback are fundamental to a student making progress. This is in line with the school's belief in the value of Assessment for Learning. Teachers check homework on a regular basis.

A variety of methods is used to correct homework:

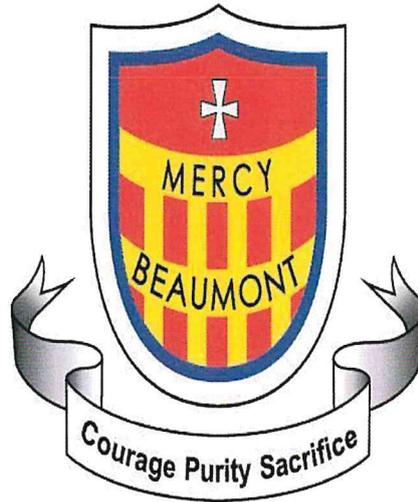
- Teacher correction
- Class correction
- Class discussion
- Students exchange work for correction
- Students write out answers in the form of a test
- Some items of homework (and class work) may be checked by students themselves under the direction of a teacher. This can be a useful part of the learning process for students.
- Students are encouraged to evaluate their own learning.

Duration of Homework

The following is suggested only as a broad guideline based on best practice and is not definitive:

Year	Hours per school day on homework revision
1st Year	1 to 2 hrs
2nd Year	2 to 2.5 hrs
3rd Year	2.5 to 3 hrs
4th Year/LCA	In accordance with project work
5th Year	3 hrs
6th Year	3+ (Minimum)

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Procedures for Non-Completion of Homework

- A student who has a valid reason for non-completion of homework must have an explanatory note from a parent dated and signed in the journal. The student must show the note to all relevant teachers.
- If a student fails to attempt work, or shows an obvious disinterest in doing the same, this will be noted for the attention of parents.
- In the event of repeated failures to complete homework the teacher will apply the agreed sanctions as outlined in the School's Code of Behaviour. Records will be kept for Parent-Teacher Meetings.
- Repeated non-presentation of homework will be brought to the attention of the Year Head to allow the situation to be further investigated.
- Parents will be contacted when a student regularly fails to present appropriate homework.
- Homework should be the student's own work. Teachers who notice students copying homework should bring this to the attention of the relevant teacher.

When renewing this policy, due consideration has been given to all aspects of the wellbeing of students at Our Lady of Mercy college and particularly to the Wellbeing Plan. General Data Protection Regulation came into force in May 2018, and this policy has been reviewed in accordance with best practice as detailed in this legislation. This policy has been reviewed in accordance with Our Lady of Mercy College Safeguarding Statement and in line with the Children First Act 2015 (and Addendum 2019), and the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools – Revised 2023.

Review of Policy The school authorities will review this policy on a regular basis in order to stay up to date with current best practice and with relevant legislation in this area.

Approval This policy has been approved by Our Lady of Mercy College.

Signed: Gerard Rambo

Date: 19/2/25 Chairperson, Board of Management