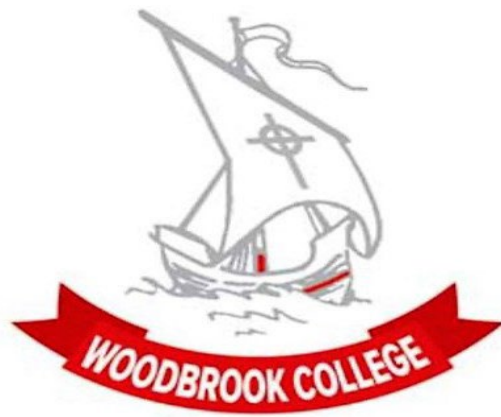


# **Woodbrook College**

## **Bray, Co. Wicklow**



## **Homework and Study Policy**

*"Learning together for a better future"*

Approved by the Board of Management at a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 2023.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 Woodbrook College has a catholic tradition reflecting its origin within Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) Charter.

1.2 Woodbrook College considers itself a pluralist community; it embraces inclusion in terms of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.

1.3 Woodbrook College is a co-educational school with a broad curriculum, which aims to meet the diverse range of academic, vocational, spiritual and social needs of its students.

## 2. Rationale

Not all homework is alike in purpose, timing or nature. Homework assignments can be to prepare for the next lesson, to practice or reinforce skills, knowledge and information taught in class, or to extend and expand on what was taught in class.

### Homework is needed:

- To support learning.
- To reinforce, practice and consolidate work done in class.
- To extend learning done in class.
- To develop study skills.
- To develop writing skills.
- To develop research skills.
- To develop organisational skills.
- To engage in critical thinking.
- To foster independent learning skills.
- To prepare for the next day's class.
- To encourage further research.
- To motivate and challenge students.
- To enable teachers to monitor students' progress.
- To develop and foster a closer relationship between learning in school and at home.
- To encourage students to take more responsibility for their own learning and progress.

### Whole School approach to homework and study.

The school expects that all homework will be completed in the timeframe allocated and to the best of that student's ability.

## 3. The Role of the School

- Through the use of the school journal.
- Homework club. (Free for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years)
- Supervised study. (Free for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years)
- Microsoft Teams.
- Study skills.
- The Support for Learning (SFL) Department.

Psychologists have found that in order to retain material over long periods it should be studied and revised regularly as per table below:

No Revision	Regular Revision
80% is lost after 1 day	80-90% is retained
90% is lost after 1 week	
98% is lost after 3 weeks	
After 6 months nothing remains.	After 6 months it is lodged in the long-term memory.

#### 4. The Role of the Teacher

The teacher is essential in achieving the primary purpose of homework: to support learning. The subject teacher is responsible for assigning homework to the class group in order to support learning in that subject.

##### **The Role of the Teacher is:**

- To explain the homework activity and what the success criteria are.
- To differentiate the homework activity for all learning types and abilities.
- To allow a specific time within each class for students to record, question and understand the homework activity.
- To upload the homework on Microsoft Teams as an Assignment or in the General Channel for the class before 3.45pm each day. Students will be informed by the teacher during the class if it is not possible to upload homework by this time and alternative arrangements will be made.
- To set a variety of homework using a range of methodologies over the course of the year.
- To correct and give appropriate feedback on all homework set.
- To monitor students' progress through the medium of homework.
- To set an appropriate amount of homework on a regular basis, ensuring that there is a reasonable amount of time for students to complete the homework activities to a high standard.
- To encourage students to complete homework and to issue merits for excellent effort and to issue demerits when this is not completed as per the school's Relationship and Behaviour Policy. ([link](#))
- To reassign incomplete or poorly completed homework.

##### **Sanctions**

In the event that homework is not presented/completed/of reasonable standard or of correct format, that the classroom teacher imposes sanctions to address and amend the situation or student attitude. The following actions could be taken and should be followed up:

- Homework may be increased, or alternatively, appropriate and relevant separate punishment work may be given.
- Failure to produce homework is recorded on VSware in the form of a homework demerit for the attention of parents/guardians. The teacher will also keep a record of this in his or her own records.
- Repeated occurrences will be followed up through parental contact by the subject teacher and/or Year Head to address if there are any issues.

#### 5. The Role of the Student

The completion of homework should be regarded as one of the student's priorities after school. It is the responsibility of the student:

- To record all homework (written and learning) into their journal. Students must also ensure they have access to and frequently check Microsoft Teams where homework will be set. Teachers will explain during class where homework can be accessed every time it is assigned.
- To complete all homework assignments to a high standard and to the best of their ability at all times. For example, a student's homework might be categorized as 'bronze, silver and gold' in Maths. If the student selects 'bronze', for instance, this homework must be completed to the best of the student's individual ability.
- To show evidence of effort in the event of difficulties being encountered and that an attempt was made to contact the teacher on Teams if they found particular difficulty with a certain aspect of the homework.
- To place the same importance on oral, research or learning homework as on written homework. For example, this could range from practising speaking a language at home,

researching for a CBA (Classroom Based Assessment) for science or learning a quote for English class, all of which are also very important learning skills.

- To ensure that there is a healthy balance between study, extra-curricular and part time jobs.
- To complete homework in the event of absences within a reasonable amount of time. Students can use Microsoft Teams to assist them with this.

## 5. The Role of the Parent/ Guardian

Parents/ Guardians are always considered to be the primary educators of their children and therefore have a major role to play in the academic life of their child. The experience, perspectives and support they can lend to their child's learning are invaluable. As such, parents/guardians should:

- **Encourage their child to designate a regular time for homework activities each day. Parents are reminded that Woodbrook College currently offers a free Homework Club (for 1st and 2nd Year students) and a free Supervised Study facility (for 3rd, 5th and 6th Year students) after school for all students who wish to avail of it.**
- Provide an environment where the student can complete homework and study. For example, where possible, parents/guardians could create or decide upon a designated area where homework and study can be completed without interruptions or distractions.
- Take responsibility to record any difficulties their child encountered with homework activities. For example, a parent/guardian could write a note or an email to communicate to a teacher the difficulties that their child might be facing when completing homework. If a student fails to regularly understand the homework, please contact the subject teacher, the tutor, or the year head.
- Parents/guardians should frequently check the homework journal and/or Microsoft Teams to ensure that homework is being completed. Parents/guardians could also check their child's copybooks to see how they are advancing.
- As students are now using Microsoft Teams and other internet-based resources for homework assignments, parents/guardians are advised to ensure that their child's internet usage is being used appropriately.
- Encourage frequent revision of topics, to ease the pressure on students at exam times.
- Help with their child's organisation, wherever possible. This will elevate their child's learning experience in school every day.
- Overall, encourage a positive attitude towards learning and homework.

## 6. Study / Life balance

- When you achieve a study-life balance it means that you can maximize your academic work whilst also having time for family, friends and participating in other activities. Although it is important that students plan to set aside sufficient time for homework and study, getting the right balance in your life for overall wellbeing is important.
- The amount of time needed for students to complete homework will differ. TY will vary depending on project work and activities.
- Some of our subject departments use the Gold/Silver/Bronze method to support differentiation and to allow the students to achieve to the best of their ability and to attempt homework that they are comfortable with. This idea of Gold/ Silver/Bronze can also be used as an overall guideline to determine the minimum amount of time that should be allocated to homework and study Monday to Friday depending on the abilities of each individual student.

Year Group	Bronze (minutes)	Silver (minutes)	Gold (minutes)
1 <sup>st</sup> years	40	50	60
2 <sup>nd</sup> years	70	80	90
3 <sup>rd</sup> years	70	80	90
5 <sup>th</sup> years	110	120	130
6 <sup>th</sup> years	110	120	130