

Integrity

Mackie Academy

"There is virtue in hard work"

Homework Policy

Excellence

Teamwork

Commitment

"Effective teaching is not enough. Success for young people also relies (along with good teaching) on the homework and self-directed learning that they do out of school hours, and classroom teaching flourishes when good teaching and self-directed learning meet. We know that those who are going to do well in life are marked out by their self-esteem, their motivation and their ability to take responsibility for their own learning."

Professor John MacBeath (Emeritus Professor Cambridge University)

Introduction

The partnership between home and school can be clearly seen in the case of homework. Success depends upon both home and school providing support and encouragement to pupils.

The information below aims to provide you with key information about the school's Homework Policy. We hope it will answer any questions you may have about the homework that your pupil will get at Mackie Academy.

To support the partnership between pupils, parents and school, Mackie Academy uses the Show My Homework website to publish all homework. The school provides individual login details to all pupils and their parents in order that specific information relating to issued homework and deadlines is readily available.

Mackie Academy welcomes discussion on any issue relating to your child's education, including homework. If you have any queries please contact your child's Principal Teacher Pupil Support & Attainment in the first instance.

Purpose and Aims of Homework

The main purpose of homework is to encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own. A balanced and planned approach to homework contributes to a pupil's overall chances of personal success at school. Homework includes giving pupils the opportunity to:

- plan and organise their time
- develop good study habits, self-discipline and independent learning
- develop research skills by accessing resources not available in school
- consolidate, practise, finish, supplement or extend work done in class
- prepare for assessments and examinations
- develop confidence to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems

Homework is an integral part of Mackie Academy's positive ethos. Homework strengthens academic skills, reinforces concepts taught by teachers, and develops responsibility and accountability. Furthermore, homework promotes parental awareness and engagement.

Homework does make a significant difference to how well individual pupils succeed at school.

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What forms might homework take?

Homework can take various forms and the type of homework will vary from subject to subject. Some of the tasks given may include:

Investigations	Interviewing	Simple experiments	Essay writing	Learning work
Research	Public Library visits	Drafting & redrafting	Report writing	Vocabulary practice
Reading	Designing	Revision	Making a simple model	Spelling
Drawing	Word Processing	Desktop Publishing	Projects	Learning formulae
Coursework	Watching recommended T.V. programmes	Accessing the Internet and GLOW	Completing tasks started in class or missed tasks	Practising skills / rehearsing
Fieldwork		Keep fit or sporting tasks		Listening activities

These are only some of the kinds of homework that may be given. Different subjects will provide opportunities to practise different skills and learn in different ways.

Homework is set at an appropriate level and extends each individual by being challenging and yet manageable. Different tasks may be set or the same task at different levels to individual students. Teachers should provide appropriate support and take into account how much time individual pupils will need to complete a task.

Quantity

The amount of time pupils should spend on homework tasks varies between year groups and courses. It may also depend on the nature of the subject or the type of course work being done at the time.

- In general homework is given on a planned and regular basis related to the number of subject lessons per week.
- The time spent on homework is likely to increase as the pupil gets further through school.
- In addition to the formal homework tasks that are set, pupils always have the regular routine task of revising and reading over work done in class. This can also include extending and tidying up written work done in class.

Senior Phase pupils (S4-6) should be applying themselves regularly and consistently to private study at home. This should form a considerable part of each evening and parts of the weekend. It is anticipated that examination preparation will require significant additional time. Ideally, homework, other than revision work, will not be issued for two weeks prior to examinations to allow students to prepare adequately.

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The Role of the Pupil

It is the responsibility of the pupil to submit homework on time, having produced it to the highest standard possible. Where homework is not submitted, the class teacher will discuss the reasons for this and parents will be notified accordingly.

It is the responsibility of the pupil to:

- ensure that they take a clear note of **all** Homework - what has to be done and when the homework is due in, if they decide not to use the Show My Homework website/app
- find out any work missed due to absence and complete this in agreement with the teacher
- prepare for subject assessments notified
- seek advice and help from teachers if necessary **before** the homework due date
- plan their personal study timetable
- use study periods and study leave productively in the Senior Phase
- meet deadlines

The Role of the Parent

Research shows that a parent has an extremely important partnership role to play in assisting their child to succeed. The parent can help by:

- ensuring their child completes homework regularly
- encouraging a positive attitude to study
- providing a suitable study place free from distractions. For example, working in a warm and well-lit part of the house; providing a flat surface to work on such as a desk or table; encouraging them to work away from distractions such as T.V., mobile phone, etc.
- assisting their child establish a homework routine and not to leave it until the night before it is due
- encouraging productive use of homework time even when specific homework has not been set by the school e.g. reading programmes, research and revision
- communicating with the school on any problems which relate to homework
- taking a positive and active interest in what is being done
- reinforcing the value of homework

If your child is absent from school please ensure that they find out the classwork and homework they have missed. It will be your child's responsibility to arrange with the teacher an agreed timescale to complete missed work.

If your child is unable to attend school for an extended period but **can** work at home, then you should contact the child's Principal Teacher Pupil Support & Attainment (Guidance) to request work.

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The Role of the School

Teachers will:

- ensure that all homework tasks and assessment notifications are populated on Show My Homework.
- promote a positive attitude to homework and develop high expectations
- ensure that appropriate homework is set and regular feedback provided
- ensure that homework is attainable and differentiated according to pupil ability
- use the Whole School Policy for non-completion of homework to inform parents, and PT's Pupil Support & Attainment (Guidance) where there is a problem
- provide opportunities for pupils to study outwith class time through the use of the library and study support classes if available.
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Homework policy to ensure an effective and consistent approach to homework.

Failure to Submit Homework

While the vast majority of pupils understand the importance of homework and take a positive and responsible approach to it, there may be circumstances where non-completion of homework becomes a concern. In order to develop a positive attitude towards homework and to develop high expectations of staff, it is important that a clear, fair policy is applied consistently, and that all pupils are made aware of this.

The following system to notify parents will apply should pupils fail to submit or make a positive attempt at a homework task:

1. Where homework is not submitted by the due date, the class teacher will note this and the pupil will be expected to submit the work on the next school day (not just the next day on which they have that subject).
2. On the first instance where homework is not submitted the class teacher will note this.
3. On subsequent occasions where homework is not submitted by the due date, the class teacher will inform the office (using the dedicated homework email address) with copy to relevant PSAT teacher and Faculty Head, of the details, and parents will be notified by email (or text if no email address has been provided).

Example:

<name> has not submitted homework for <subject> (<teacher>) due on <date>.

The homework is still expected to be submitted by the pupil however if it has not been done so within a reasonable time then there can be no expectation by the pupil that a late submission will receive feedback from the teacher.

4. Should repeated failure to submit homework be considered sufficiently detrimental to a child's academic progress, the class teacher will complete a 'Cause for Concern' which will follow the standard procedure used for Cause for Concerns.

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5. Should all previous stages fail to address the issue of repeated non submission, the class teacher would initiate via their Faculty Head the issue of the 'HT Final letter'. This will result in a letter going home to parents from the Head Teacher informing the parent that their child will no longer be pursued for homework by that subject or parents notified of non-submission. Homework will continue to be issued in the same manner and if submitted will receive feedback as per other pupils.

Final HT Letter template

Dear Parent

**<pupil name> <pupil surname> <tutorgroup>
Repeated Failure to Submit Homework for <subject>**

You will have received a Cause for Concern regarding repeated instances of <pupil name> not submitting homework for <subject>, despite extra time being offered to complete the work and support from teaching staff.

Mackie Academy's policy, which is available via our school website, states clearly that it is the responsibility of pupils to hand work in on time and to the highest standard.

Although <pupil name> has been made aware of the role of homework in supporting them to achieve their full potential, unfortunately <pupil name> has made a decision not to complete homework for <subject>.

Homework will still be issued to <pupil name> along with others in the class, however staff will no longer pursue non-submitted homework for this subject. Should <pupil name> hand in completed work on time in future appropriate feedback will be provided as would be the case with other pupils.

Yours sincerely

L Moir
Head Teacher