



Coláiste Thulach Sheasta Homework Policy 2024



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Introduction

Coláiste Thulach Sheasta, Newport College is a post primary Community College under the patronage of the Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB). We are a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by five core values: excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect.

As an ETB Community College, we give equal opportunities to all students in the community we serve, and we strive to provide high quality education through respectful, positive, supportive and responsive learning environments and respect.

In all aspects of school life all members of our school community are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

We value:

Excellence: Excellence includes excellence in education, training, and support. It is underpinned by the core values of care, respect, community, and equality. Excellence encompasses outcomes, experiences, and expectations of people involved. In striving for excellence in education, homework supports students to achieve to their highest potential. Homework tasks are designed to challenge students, promote critical thinking, and encourage high-quality work. By setting high standards, we inspire students to excel academically and personally.

Care: Care is about the welfare, wellbeing, and safety of all who are involved in education and training. It is exemplified in meaningful relationships, connectedness, and empathy, alongside support and solidarity.

Equality: Equality is about treating everyone equally and recognising and celebrating the diversity of those involved in education, training, and youth work. It is exemplified in targeting resources on those who have need and prioritising a culture of inclusion. Ensuring equality in education means providing all students with fair and equal opportunities to succeed. Homework assignments are differentiated to cater to diverse learning needs, ensuring that every student, regardless of background or ability, has access to the same quality of education. Support mechanisms are in place to help all students succeed.

Community: Community encompasses learners, their families, staff, and the local communities in which our services are based. It is about having shared vision, values and purpose, a sense of belonging, and a voice that is listened to. It is exemplified in productive collaboration, positive contributions, and effective communication amongst all stakeholders.

Respect: Respect is about upholding the dignity, rights, and recognition of the identity and background of all those involved in education, training, and youth work. It is exemplified in relationships between all stakeholders, and decision-making that impacts positively on the rights, feelings, and aspirations of the diversity of people.

Statement of Purpose

Purposeful, well-planned homework is seen and understood by the staff of Newport College to be the entitlement of every pupil.

We believe that it is important that we all understand the purposes of homework:

- To consolidate, practice, finish, supplement or extend work done in class. Homework serves as a reinforcement of classroom learning experiences and is assigned with specific aims in mind,
- To encourage students to:
 - plan and organise their time to effectively meet deadlines
 - take ownership of their learning
 - work independently
 - develop good habits and self-discipline
 - develop research skills by accessing resources not available in school
 - reflect on their understanding of the material learned in class
- To enable classroom teachers to:
 - provide valuable insight into students' progress and comprehension of material covered
 - assessing students' understanding and adjust teaching strategies as needed.
 - identify students' strengths and areas for improvement
 - plan the delivery of their subject efficiently
 - Facilitate feedback
 - raise the achievement level of all students
 - manage particular curricular demands such as the project work involved in the Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Programmes of Work.
- To extend and sustain the involvement of parents/guardians in the management of pupil learning by:
 - creating channels for home-school dialogue
 - providing information for parents
 - providing opportunities for parental co-operation and support.

Types of Homework

Newport College staff believes that the term "Homework" should not be narrowly interpreted. It is more than written exercises, learning lists or making notes. Students at Newport College will receive a variety of homework.

The following, though not exhaustive, indicates to parents and students the range of homework students might be asked to complete.

Written Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drafting • Essay/Letter/Report Writing • Prepare notes for debate • Written assignments
Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library visit • Reading text, novel, newspaper, or other material
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field Research/Desk Research
Digital Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a blog post • Online quizzes • Recording a podcast • Submission of digital art projects • Uploading a video presentation • Using educational apps for practice or presentations • Using online learning platforms • Word processing
Creative Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing • Drawing • Model Making
Listening and Speaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews • Listening comprehension • Preparing for debates, role-plays, presenting, etc
Practical Assignments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drill practice of procedure/method • Prepare ingredients • Simple experiments • Take a photograph • Visit to local shop/business
Study and Revision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Vocabulary • Revision Work • Preparing for class tests or exams
Media and Observational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watching a documentary/TV Programme/Film

- Revision of each day's class work should form part of homework
- Exam students are also encouraged to test themselves, using sample exam questions without reference to books etc.
- Students can expect to receive homework in most subject areas

Homework: Code of Practice

Each student at Newport College is required to record all homework in his/her homework diary as outlined by his/her subject teacher.

All types of homework must be recorded.

1. Subject teachers will explain homework and will allocate time to allow students to record its details.
2. Homework assignments may be differentiated to cater for diverse learning needs.
3. Students will receive regular homework and details of completion dates. Deadlines must be adhered to.
4. In the event of homework not being completed, the school will accept letters/notes of explanation from parents, providing the student has made a reasonable attempt.
5. Failure to produce homework or presentation of careless homework is taken seriously by the school as we are aware that persistent failure to complete/hand in homework can only result in underachievement. **NOTE: If the student is absent when homework is given out, then he/she must assume responsibility for getting its details and agreeing a schedule of completion with the teacher.**
6. Teachers will check that homework is done and corrected and will record homework infringements.
7. Project work for exams must be completed and presented to the appropriate teacher in advance of the completion date which is set by the Department of Education. This is to allow the teacher to assess the work and to give appropriate feedback.
8. Under DE verification rules, project work must be signed off by the subject teacher as being the work of that student. For this to happen, all project work must be seen by the teacher on an on-going basis and students are required to co-operate with the completion schedule as outlined by the teacher.
9. Should a teacher be absent from class, students will be assigned work to complete, and the supervising teacher will facilitate continuity of learning, this is not a time for doing homework.
10. Teachers will outline good study practice to their students e.g. note taking, active revision, setting goals, making out a study timetable.

Time Allocation for Homework

Time is not the only criteria for good homework; nevertheless, it can be helpful for students and parents alike to have some guidelines. The following general guidelines may help in determining the minimum amount of time spent on homework:

1st Year	1-hour 30mins
2ndYear	2 hours
3rd Year	2 to 3 hours
Transition Year	Varies depending on project work and activities
Senior Cycle	3 to 4 hours, including project work. Weekend study/revision is essential.

Able students will complete all tasks quickly and correctly and may appear to have given very little time to their homework. Students with learning difficulties may put in huge amounts of time and effort. Teachers and parents need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework or when inspecting homework.

Special Educational Needs

- In setting homework for students with special needs, teachers are encouraged to balance the right of students to share fully in the work of the class, including homework tasks, with their individual learning needs.
- These needs may include consolidation and reinforcement of specific skills. For some students, the continuing involvement of parents is very valuable.
- Subject teachers will collaborate where possible with Learning Support teachers to ensure class tasks are manageable, and individual skill practice can be incorporated without overloading the students.
- Where possible subject teachers will guide the gifted student in their learning and research.

Homework: Parent/Guardian Guidelines

We ask parents/guardians to:

- Check and sign the school diary weekly
- Encourage and support their children to do their best and complete the homework assigned
- Discuss their homework tasks with them
- Support the school by ensuring that homework is done conscientiously and in appropriate surroundings-we recommend that study is done in a quiet, warm, well-ventilated room free from distractions and noise.
- Fully support the school in any sanctions we employ to deal with homework which has not been presented, completed, or does not represent the student's best effort.
- Be aware that material which is downloaded from the internet or created using AI Technology cannot be presented as the student's own work, and when presented as part of a project must be acknowledged.
- If for some reason the assigned homework is not done or completed, a note in the diary from the parent explaining why is required.

Homework: Support

- **Homework Club** may be available to all our Junior Cycle students. There is a small fee per year. Supervisors are available to assist the students with their homework.
- **Supervised Study** is offered in the school. It is dependent on numbers. There is a fee per session.

Ratified on

Signed: Fiona Boyfield Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: 14/11/2024