

Loreto College Cavan

Homework Policy

SCOPE OF THIS POLICY

The whole school.

RATIONALE

As part of the family of Loreto Schools, Loreto College Cavan, aims to provide a balanced academic education for all our students, seeking to promote self-esteem, self-discipline, and the goal of self-fulfilment (Loreto Cavan Mission Statement). In Loreto College Cavan, “students are encouraged to strive for excellence at the level of each one’s potential in all areas of ... work” (Kolkata Guidelines 2002). Homework serves these educational goals and has several educational purposes, including acknowledging that students learn in three different ways; verbal, auditory, and kinaesthetic:

- It encourages independence, initiative, and a love of learning
- It reinforces work done in class
- It allows pupils to test their powers of recall and learning
- It prepares the way for work to be done in the future
- It extends and challenges students’ capabilities
- It lays the foundation for successful examination work
- It is a form of self discipline

Through these educational purposes, Loreto College Cavan seeks to, “develop dynamic leaders with ‘heart’, wisdom, vision, and the will to influence and bring about change in society.” (Kolkata Guidelines 2002)

GOALS

1. Success in exams
2. To discover strengths and weaknesses
3. To encourage liaison between teachers and parents
4. To share responsibility with parents for their child’s work and progress
5. To foster independent learning

HOMEWORK (See appendices for individual subject requirements)

- Homework is considered to be an important element in reinforcing the student’s grasp of material and work covered in class. It consists of both written assignments and the learning of work done in class.

- The school expects that all homework will be completed on time and to the best of a student's ability, unless there is a valid excuse accompanied by a note from parent/guardian.
- All homework – written and learning – is to be recorded by students in the School Journal.
- The School Journal [of students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd years] should be checked for homework given and completed and signed on a regular basis by both the Class Teacher and a parent.
- In addition to the completion of homework, students are also expected to follow a revision programme drawn up in consultation with teachers. Revision is the key to ensuring that a student develops and retains a knowledge of material covered in class in earlier weeks, months or years.
- As students differ so much in terms of their ability and speed of completion of work, it is impossible to be specific as to the amount of time to be spent on a daily basis on homework and revision by each individual student. However, the following general guidelines are offered:

Year	Recommended Hours per school day on home work and revision
1 st	1 to 2
2 nd	1.5 to 2
3 rd	2 to 3
TY	Variable in accordance with amount of project work
5 th	3
6 th	3 +

Students are advised to maintain a balance between homework and revision.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- Parents of incoming first years are informed of the importance of Homework by the Year Head at induction.
- Parents are asked to ensure, where possible, that students are afforded a suitable room at home in which to study i.e. quiet, adequately ventilated/heated and equipped with a proper table and chair.
- Parents should also ensure that any part-time jobs held by students do not interfere with the full and proper completion of homework and revision.
- If it is felt by a student or her parents that she is under undue pressure from homework and revision it is suggested that the matter be discussed with the Class Teacher.
- See that proper amount of time is spent on homework, check that homework is completed.
- Homework provides regular feedback against which the student may gauge her progress.
- Students are required to do homework and present it properly.
- Parents should regularly check School Journals for homework and messages.

- Homework may take many forms such as listening, writing, learning, planning, oral work, drawing, independent investigation, wider reading, each of which has its respective importance.
- Further Study and revision is part of a good study schedule.

TEACHERS

Homework is set on a regular basis in all subjects.

Ensure that all homework is recorded in homework School Journal

1. Give specific instructions.
2. Make sure the student understands what is required.
3. Give a suggested frame – ‘this should take - and will include - ’

Homework is assessed and marked either during class or subsequently.

Where a mark is given pupils are made aware of the mark obtained. The mark is usually a grade A, B, C, etc. or percentage and may contribute to a total term grade. A comment may be given on how well the task has been completed. This may prove helpful as a student will be able to see how she might improve.

1. Verbal: positive comments for Juniors – positive reinforcement.
2. Written: positive reinforcement for Seniors.

Check that homework is done as directed. If not done, record in Student Journal that there will be a penalty for not producing it. Use Report Form to record repeated failure to hand in homework.

IMPLEMENTATION/MONITORING

Subject teachers implement their own homework for their respective classes because this homework is very dependent on teaching methods and subject matter.

Each subject department, as far as is practicable, should formulate a policy on equitable time and quantity of homework for each year group based on ability.

Class teacher may check Journals periodically.

School Journals are joint school and pupil property and must be available to the teacher. Lost Journals must be reported to the Head of Year/Deputy Principal. A sanction may be imposed if the journal is not available, mislaid or defaced by graffiti. If journals are mislaid then they must be replaced.

Teachers may reward pupils for completing homework to a high standard.

This policy will be reviewed from time to time as directed by the Board of Management.

Approved by BOM on 13th May 2008