**Homework Policy**

**AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY**

Homework is an integral part of education in that it promotes students’ self-discipline and personal responsibility for learning and organisation and reinforces work started in class, extending knowledge and understanding. Homework allows pupils the opportunity to practise and develop skills and is valuable in ensuring continued progress and achievement. Homework allows parents to become involved in their child’s learning and understand their strengths and development needs.

1. **Amount of Homework**

Irvine Royal does not have a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. Pupils will need to learn to manage their time so that they do some homework each evening. Each department will set meaningful homework when appropriate for that subject and this will be consistent within each department.

* 1. The amount of time spent on each homework task is flexible, but through consultation with pupils, staff and parents the following guidelines have been given –

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Year group** | **Per subject** | **Hours Per week** |
| Broad General Education (S1-3) | Fortnightly - Monthly | 1 - 2 hours |
| Senior Phase ( S4-6) | Weekly - Fortnightly | 2 -3 hours |

* 1. Each department within Irvine Royal Academy have created a plan to provide consistency across both department and the wider school. These descriptions can be seen below-

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Department** | **BGE** | **Senior Phase** |
| Physical Education | One piece of homework issued per activity block ( 5-6 weeks) | One piece of homework issueD fortnightly within unit |
|  | **FH TO POPULATE**  |  |
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1. **The role of parents in supporting their child**

Parents play a vital role in the successful completion of homework. They should try to –

* Provide a peaceful place in which their child can do their homework, or encourage them to attend homework support clubs on offer.
* Make it clear to their child that they value homework.
* Encourage their child and praise them when they have completed homework.
* Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are using Google Classroom.

**2.1** Parental involvement in the successful implementation of the homework policy will be further encouraged by:-

* Raising any issues at a parents’ evenings, throughout the academic year.
* Contact with parents via text where the completion of homework is challenging.
1. **The role of teachers in setting and supporting homework**

Teachers should ensure that they -

* Set homework according to the department plan
* Use Google classroom as a way of issuing homework
* Give full comprehensive instructions
* Set deadlines for work and ensure they are supported.
* Mark and return homework with quality feedback to progress learning
* Provide help and support.
* Inform PT/Parent of non-completion of homework
1. **The role of pupils in completing homework**

Pupils should value homework and use homework as a way to progress their learning and deepen understanding of classwork tasks. They should strive to:

* Listen to homework instructions in class
* Regularly check Google classroom for deadlines
* Ensure homework is completed and handed in on time
* Attempt all homework to the best of their ability
* Ask for help and support ( prior to deadline) from class teacher, when required
1. **Incentives to complete homework**

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be praised in class. Other ways to reward for quality and consistent homework may include –

* 100% homework certificates
* The use of the house points reward system.
* Recommendation for Head Teacher awards.
* Departmental certificates and postcards.
* Verbal praise to individuals and groups.
* Students’ work displayed in classrooms and corridors.
1. **The planning & nature of homework tasks**

Homework should be issued either electronically or on worksheets but must be set on Google Classroom. This platform will ultimately become the pupils’ homework diary. All homework deadlines will be set in Google Classroom.

**6.1** Homework tasks should:-

* Be relevant, meaningful and set for a purpose.
* Not be used regularly for “finishing off” class work. This places a heavy burden on some students and too light a demand on others.
* Be differentiated and varied, providing appropriate challenge for pupils of differing abilities.
* Be manageable for pupils in terms of time and resources.
* Be manageable for staff in terms of marking

Suggestions include:-

* + Writing assignments.
	+ Preparing an oral presentation.
	+ Reading in preparation for a future lesson.
	+ Finding out information/researching a project.
	+ Using a specific website. (E.g. BBC Bitesize)
	+ Revision activities in preparation for examinations.
	+ Reading for pleasure.
	+ Subject projects.

**7. Strategies for supporting the completion of homework**

**7.1** Pupils should appreciate that homework is a vital part of their education, to be done at home or within homework after school club sessions. A variety of strategies must be employed to ensure the successful completion of homework.

7.2 The flowchart below explains the process of supporting the completion of homework –

AMBITION RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY

Pupil issued with homework and given a deadline for submission

Pupil completes homework successfully and on time

Pupil fails to complete homework for set deadline

Pupil given feedback/reward for completion of homework

Text sent home to inform parent of incompletion of homework and new deadline set. support offered at lunchtime & homework club with new deadline set

Pupil completes homework for revised deadline

Pupil does not meet second homework deadline

FH to phone home to determine a homework support plan and identify any barriers and challenges for the pupil and the parent/carer. This support plan might include attendance at Homework support clubs – whole school or department.

Pupil given feedback

Consistent failure to engage with homework deadlines will result in a cause for concern referral to FH.

**Below is a list of supports that may be used to remove barriers to engaging in homework.**

**7.3** Support provided through after school homework club, allowing pupils to access online applications, on line communication to check understanding as appropriate.

7.4 Online tutorials recorded for parents can be accessed via school website. Tutorials will explore Google Classroom and help familiarise parents with the application, allowing them to fully support pupils with keeping track of deadlines.

7.5 Teachers will make use of the collated spreadsheet which will allow office staff to send messages home to relevant pupils.