**Homework Policy - Grange Post Primary School**

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**Ethos Statement**

MSLETB is a community of learners with an historic and unique tradition as a provider of education and training. In responding to the needs of the community, it delivers the highest standards of teaching and learning. Schools within MSLETB are democratic, co-educational and multi-denominational in character where policies, practices and attitudes are underpinned by the core values of Respect, Equity and Fairness.

The Board of Management of Grange PPS is publishing this document as the official Policy for managing significant emergency situations. MSLETB as patron of the school has approved this publication.

**Link to Mission Statement**

Grange Post Primary School is a partnership of Staff, Students and Parents enabling each student to achieve his or her full potential. We aim to inspire a Love of Learning in all our students, irrespective of ability and through personable and enthusiastic encouragement to lead all on to develop as Caring, Respectful Individuals in a challenging world.

This Policy is designed to reflect our mission statement by promoting personable and enthusiastic encouragement via approaches to homework; that will support learning and help students to positively engage with school work towards reaching their academic potential.

**Values underpinning our approach to homework:**

Granges PPS have identified consistent and quality homework as a vital component of the learning process for the following reasons:

* It help students to recap and reinforce work carried out in class with a teacher, to aid understanding and retention of knowledge and information.
* It allow them to practice theories, processes and formulaes on their own to establish areas of weaknesses and to gauge if they fully understand the application.
* It aids learning and understanding of content covered through manipulation of the information to complete assignments.
* It promotes and encourages self- learning and independent learning skills, vital to functioning effectively in their future lives.
* It allows teachers to monitor student progress accurately.
* It facilitates formative feedback to enhance learning going forward.
* It is a necessary component in preparation for state examinations.
* It facilitates teachers assessing a student’s ability within a subject area.
* It plays a key role in developing language and writing skills.

**Targets of our homework policy**

Through implementation of this policy we hope to achieve the following:

* To improve student engagement with homework and thereby, improve the quality of the homework being submitted by students.
* To increase the number of students consistently submitting homework.
* To increase the values students and parents attach and perceive around homework.

**Agreed Procedures for homework in Grange PPS**

* Encourage all homework is written into journals before the end of class.
* Teachers may allow five minutes before the end of class to allow student to begin homework to see if any issues/problems may arise.
* Teachers will provide formative feedback on homework assignments to ensure the student understands what they have done well and what areas they could improve on.
* Teachers will try to vary the type of homework assigned over the course of the week to include oral, aural, and audio- visual work in addition to written, as appropriate.
* Where Special Educational Needs (SEN) difficulties are impacting on homework; differentiation of the nature and the expectations of homework should be in line with the student’s capabilities.
* A sufficient timeframe should be provided for assignments, particularly large assignments, to allow students to effectively plan and distribute their homework over the week.
* Non- exam classes will not be given homework assignments over holiday periods.
* A positive reward system will be put in place for junior students to encourage and acknowledge quality homework and to cultivate, develop and embed an independent learning style which they can carry into senior cycle. There will be twice yearly rewards.
* Students will be encouraged to identify their learning styles and develop their study and reflective skills. This will be addressed through pastoral care, guidance counselling and guest speakers
* Specific homework notice boards will be available in class rooms, to allow students to check homework over the course of the day (specifically targeted at students away at matches, trips etc).

Where students fail to submit homework, the following procedure will be applied:

* Teachers will take local measures for example giving an additional evening to complete homework, keeping the student in to complete homework at break/lunch time etc. Where local measures have not proven effective a homework referral will be passed to the class tutor on the following form:

**Record of No Homework**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Student Name:** | **Date:** |
| **Class Group:** | **Subject Teacher:** |
| **Description:** |  |
| * No Homework presented in class | * Homework incomplete |
| * Poor attempt at homework | * Copied homework |
| **Description of homework not presented / incomplete / copied:** | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Additional Comment / Tutor Intervention** | **Total** |
| * Spoke to student * Other: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Signed: Date: |  |

* The class teacher will give the card to the tutor and the tutor will speak to the student. i.e. the tutor will play a positive supportive role. The tutor will pass the card to the Year Head for storage and to give the Year Head an overall view of the student.
* Where the Year Head identifies a pattern emerge i.e. where a student has received up to five referrals; the Year Head will meet with the student to try and identify any issues at play,
* Once a student reached 10 referrals the Year Head will pass the students file to the DP who contacts home and to the Guidance Counsellor. The Guidance Counsellor’s role may include advising the student on areas e.g. environment, homework/study schedules, planning, time management etc. as necessary.
* When the student reaches 15 referrals a meeting will be organised between the student and the DP. Every effort will be made to motivate the student to engage with homework in a supportive manner. Attention will be drawn to any negative impact their lack of homework is having on their attainment and progress.
* At 20 homework referrals the Deputy Principal (DP) will invite the student and their parents/guardians in to discuss the issues and the impact on the student as a result of their lack of engagement with homework and where agreement will be reached on how to proceed.
* Finally, if a student reaches 25 referrals for homework the parent will be invited in to a meeting with the Principal. Parents will be provided with full information on the impact lack of engagement is having on the student’s academic attainment..

**Reporting procedures**

The DP will contact home via phone and VSWare on 5,10 and 15 cards and write to parents on receipt of 20 and 25 homework referrals inviting them to attend meetings as outlined above.

All referrals will then be placed in the students file by the DP.

**Monitoring and review of this policy**

All management, teachers, students and parents play a key role in the implementation of this policy. Feedback from all parties will feature in an evaluation of this policy which will take place in May 2022 to allow sufficient time for the policy to embed and for a comparison of data and statistics.

This Policy was drafted following a lengthy engagement with students, parents, staff and Board members. Aspects of the Policy were then trialled for a period of one year. This Policy is the final result of that trial.

**The Board of Management fully ratified this policy on the 07th of June 2018**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Eimear Harte) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Seamus Kilgannon)**

**(Principal) (Chairperson)**

**This policy was reviewed/ amended:**

Date of next review: August 2022