



## **CES Homework Policy (DRAFT)**

At the Centre for European Schooling we believe that regular effective homework is an important part of our school day.

### **What is homework?**

Homework is tasks assigned to students by their teachers to be completed outside of class. Homework may include any or all of the four skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Homework may also include revision.

### **Why do we receive homework?**

- 1. The overriding purpose of homework is to reinforce what you have done in class.**

It also:

2. provides an assessment for both pupils and teachers as to whether or not and how well the work has been understood
3. helps teachers identify mistakes and learning difficulties
4. helps students learn from their mistakes and identify their difficulties
5. forms a crucial part of exam preparation

In addition, homework boasts a number of other benefits:

6. It improves your thinking and memory
7. It helps you develop positive study skills and habits that will serve you well throughout life
8. It encourages you to use your time wisely
9. It teaches you to work independently
10. Homework teaches you to take responsibility for your work
11. Homework is also useful in order to prepare you for upcoming lessons
12. Homework helps you to learn to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer websites to find information
13. It encourages you to explore subjects more fully than classroom time permits
14. It allows you to extend learning by applying skills to new situations
15. It helps you integrate learning by applying many different skills to a single task

### **Parents and homework:**

The CES strongly encourages parents to take an active interest in the homework being done by their children. Research shows that parental involvement in their children's homework has a number of benefits. When such involvement takes place, children:

- exhibit more positive attitudes to school and learning
- receive higher grades in assignments and perform better on tests
- are less likely to miss school
- are more likely to have homework completed
- have a stronger bond and relationship with their parents
- perform better on IQ tests

While parental involvement in homework activities is important, parents need to ensure that their level of involvement is appropriate. Too much interference from parents can eliminate the beneficial effects of homework: learning how to work independently is an important lifelong learning skill that all children need to develop.

Your children's teacher(s) will be able to advise you on how you can be of greatest support in this regard.

### **The CES homework philosophy: If you are going to do something, do it right!!**

**Step 1: Recording homework:** There is no such thing as 'no homework' in the CES. All homework is to be recorded in the CES Student Learner Diary.

**Step 2: Routine:** Students should try to do their homework at a definite, fixed time each day. Ideally, as soon as is realistically possible after school.

**Step 3: Environment:** Students should do their homework and studying in a warm, well lit, quiet room, with no distractions from television, music or other people.

**Step 4: Presentation of your homework:** All CES Students are expected to take pride in their homework. As such, the presentation of homework is very important. Students are expected to present the following with all homework:

- ✓ Title
- ✓ Date
- ✓ Neat
- ✓ Legible
- ✓ Clearly laid out
- ✓ Easy to read

### **Step 5: General advice on doing homework:**

**Set goals:** Students should set attainable goals.

**Take breaks:** Students should allow for adequate break time.

**Day of Rest:** All students should take a full day off at weekends.

**Seek advice:** If you are experiencing difficulties, please seek the advice of your teacher(s) and / or the Career Guidance Counsellors.

**Supervised Study:** Dunshaughlin Community College operates Supervised Study five days a week.

## Frequently Asked Questions

**When is homework complete?** Students should only finish their homework knowing that what they have done is to the best of their abilities.

### **What happens if I have done a very high standard of homework?**

The Centre for European Schooling supports students who make excellent progress or produce work to a very high standard. As such, teachers may write a good note in the CES Student Learner Diary or give a call to a parent / guardian.

### **What happens if I submit incomplete homework?**

If a student submits incomplete homework, the teacher is required to record this in the CES Student Learner Diary. This homework will have to be completed for the following class and additional exercises may be given.

### **What happens if I cannot do my homework?**

There must be evidence that all homework has been genuinely attempted. In extreme circumstances, a note may be written in the CES Student Learner Diary by a parent / guardian.

### **What happens if I miss class due to extra-curricular activities?**

If you missed a class that took place, it is your responsibility to get the homework from that class and have it complete for the following class. If you know you are going to be absent from a CES class you must let the teacher concerned know (or alternatively any of the CES Staff).

### **What happens if I submit incomplete / substandard / no homework on a number of occasions?**

If you submit incomplete or substandard or no homework on a number of occasions, this will be dealt with as a discipline issue and will be referred to the CES Director.