



**St Gerald's DLS College
Policy on Homework and Revision**

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1.0: Introduction by the Board of Management

This policy was devised in consultation with all the teaching staff in our school. It was submitted to the Board of Management. It is being reviewed as part of the School Development Planning Process.

In devising this policy, we have given great consideration to the democratic and child centered principles of this school. The establishment of a sound learning environment at school and classroom level is critical to effective learning and teaching.

2.0: School Ethos

“St Gerald’s College, is a Lasallian Centre and the mission of the school is to give a human and Christian education to the young, with special concern for the disadvantaged”.

3.0: Homework

Homework is defined as “The time students spend outside the classroom in defined learning activities.” At St. Gerald’s we believe that the purpose of homework should be to practise, reinforce or apply acquired skills and knowledge. Reasonable assignments, completed and done well, are more effective than lengthy and difficult ones partially attempted or badly done. Homework serves to **develop regular study skills** and the ability to tackle and complete assignments independently of adult help. This helps the student **mature**, so it is crucial that he understands that homework is his responsibility. There are two things to remember about homework:

- Homework may involve project, oral or written work.
- A student always has homework. On any given day, there is always the need to revise and study the course so far.



4.0: Study

Study means active and deliberate learning. It is purposeful. It has goals. You go into study with clear questions and read to find the answers. Regular and reasonable amounts of study will give you a sense of control over your work. This will in turn reduce worry and stress, particularly at examination time when an investment like this will make things much more manageable. There are two things also to remember about study:

1. Study includes all homework and all your other deliberate learning outside of formal classes.
2. Study continues your whole life and will be crucial to the development of your later career and the enjoyment of a full life; the habit of regular, effective study is one of the most important things you take from school. It is not a question of knowing and understanding everything at all times, but of knowing how and where to find the information you need and how to think things through.

5.0: Homework and Study: The Role of the Student

- The Student Journal is crucial to the recording and monitoring of homework by student, parent or guardian, and teacher. Students are to bring their School Journals to each class every day. Failure to do so will be noted and will result in a sanction.
- The Journal is a school document and is to be kept carefully and maintained in respectable condition. It is not to be torn or defaced in any manner. It may be inspected at any time.
- Homework is to be completed as assigned and within the timeframe indicated by the Teacher.
- Failure to complete homework will require an explanatory note in the Journal from your Parent or Guardian.
- Absence from class on a given day, outside of illness, is not normally an acceptable excuse for not doing homework. It is the student's responsibility to check what homework has been assigned.
- If the student is having difficulty in balancing extra-curricular activities with his study workload, he should discuss this with his Year Head/Class Head.



6.0: Homework and Study – The Role of the Parent

Please read this policy carefully, especially the ‘tips’ for students at the end and encourage your son to follow them. It is crucial that you make clear to your son the value you place on homework and study and that you give them constant encouragement in this regard.

- Insist on a routine of homework/study and on your son’s working for all the recommended time.¹
- It is crucially important that you check your son’s School Journal each evening to ensure that the work has been done. Please note and counter-sign any comments from teachers. Write signed notes in the spaces provided if your son has not completed any given assignment.
- Encourage and advise your son, but do not be tempted to do the homework for him.
- Encourage a balance with other activities such as extra-curricular and socialising.
- Do not hesitate to communicate with the school if you become aware of difficulties.

7.0: Tips for Homework and Study

- Get a routine started (starting time, duration, location) and stick to it; this will make study much easier.
- Organise your study environment; make sure you have plenty of light, that the room is warm and well-ventilated with no distractions.
- Take regular short breaks. A study session of 40-50 minutes should be followed by a break of 5 minutes.
- When studying to remember, take short notes on each section and summarise the main points of each chapter.
- Keep going back over the basics of a subject; list bullet-points and put them on your wall or into your text-book. This will help you retain what you have learned. Colour, for example, is a powerful aid to memory, use colour – coding and differently – coloured highlighters etc.
- Remember your goals, short and long-term. What do you want out of each lesson? What do you want from this subject? What do you want from your time at the College?

¹ See list of recommended times at end of document



- Keep your morale up. You can take something from even a very unsuccessful study period. If all else fails, make sure you complete even one minor task or exercise. It is important not to finish any period without a sense of some achievement, however small.
- A student needs to eat well (regular and wholesome meals, starting with a proper breakfast), and get plenty of sleep (8 hours minimum).
- You also need a routine of physical exercise; vary your day with at least half an hour of physical activity, such as running, walking, swimming or any of the sports.
- Paid supervised study is available here after school. This is two hours long but senior students who decide to avail of this should note that further effort will be needed for their course.

8.0: Homework and Study – Suggested Times to be Spent

Year	Recommended Time ²	Actual Time ³	Variance
1st	1½ Hours Minimum	1 hr 36 mins	+6 mins
2nd	2 - 2½ Hours	2 hrs 7 mins	0 mins
3rd	3 Hours Minimum	2 hrs 59 mins	-1 min
5th	3 Hours Minimum	2hrs 43 mins	-17 mins
6th	4 Hours Minimum	3 hrs 15 mins	-45 mins

Signed: Brendan Forde

Brendan Forde

Chairperson of BoM

Signed: Daniel Hyland

Daniel Hyland

Secretary of BoM

Date of next review: _____

²Based on the professional judgement of teaching staff.

³ Student survey outcome Jan 2016.