

**Mulroy College**  
**Milford**  
**Roll Number: 712200**



**Assessment and Homework**  
**Policy**

**MULROY COLLEGE**  
**Coláiste na Maoile Ruaidhe**



**Assessment and Homework Policy**

**Mulroy College embodies mutual respect in a caring environment while enabling students to achieve personal success and move with confidence into a world of endless opportunities.**

**Rationale:**

Mulroy College recognises that homework and assessment is a crucial part of teaching and learning. Assessment and homework reinforce work done in the classroom, support independent learning and encourages students to reach their full potential in all their learning.

Assessment can take many formats and can serve many functions. It can be both formative and summative.

It should seek to capture the full range of learning that takes place for a student. Assessment should be designed to support student learning and may include differentiation where appropriate. Assessment should motivate students to learn, reflect and improve on skills and knowledge attained and reinforce and re-affirm work already completed

## **Formative Assessment**

Formative assessment is also referred to as Assessment for Learning (AfL). Formative assessment is recognised as an essential part of the learning process.

Such assessment can take a wide range of formats. It can be formal or informal and can take place during the course of a lesson, project, coursework, portfolio or homework. It can be written, oral, aural or involve the completion of a practical artefact. Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) are also exemplars of formative assessment.

### **Key principles underpinning good formative assessment:**

- The provision of constructive feedback.
- Success criteria should be given in advance of the assessment to enable students to succeed and to inform the feedback that will follow.
- Formative assessment also has as a core aim the development of a reflective learner who is capable of engaging in self-assessment.
- Formative assessment should be differentiated to capture all learning styles, all aptitudes and all abilities.
- Formative assessment should be linked to learning intentions and learning outcomes
- Formative assessment should not be restricted to knowledge acquisition but should also
- Seek to assess skills. These may include but not be limited to key skills and statements of learning
- AfL is most effective when included as part of a suite of interactive teaching strategies which engage the student directly and proactively in a reflective learning process.

## **Summative Assessment**

Summative assessment is also referred to as Assessment of Learning (AOL). Summative assessment provides students and parents / guardians with information on student progress.

Summative assessment can take a number of formats:

**House Examinations** - 1st 2nd & 5th year students complete assessments in December and in May/June each year.

**Mock Examinations** - 3rd Year & 6th year students complete mock examinations in preparation for the State examinations usually in Feb time in the lead up to the mid term break.

**State Examinations** - Students complete a formal examination for state certification purposes at the end of 3rd Year & 6th Year. This is completely run by the State Examination Commission and hosted in the College.

## **Reporting on assessment**

### **Classroom feedback**

Teachers provide constructive feedback as a matter of course to students during classroom discussions, in response to questioning and other instructional strategies that complement formative assessment.

### **Homework corrections**

Students are required to complete homework as part of their learning and teachers correct this homework regularly. The feedback should be constructive, highlight good practice, identify some areas for further development and motivate students to reflect and target improvement.

Student Journals are also a way to communicate with parents on homework, give feedback and identify areas of concern.

### **Parent /Teacher meetings**

All year groups have one Parent/Teacher meeting each year. Parent / Teacher meetings provide an opportunity for teachers to provide direct feedback to parents/ progress including assessments that have been carried out.

### **Term Reports**

We use the VSware system to compile all term reports. All grading descriptors/grades follow those set out by state examinations.

**The purpose of homework is:**

To reinforce learning that takes place in the classroom

To encourage a self-disciplined and self-motivating attitude to study.

To encourage revision of work

To encourage and develop links between teachers and parents/guardians.

**Type of homework:**

Homework may be written or oral in nature, involve research, or may consist of a student revising material in order to remember it for exam purposes.

Homework may consist of preparing for class tests or completing work begun in class.

Homework may be ICT based eg using google classroom or student email.

Each subject teacher will specify the type of homework.

**Amount of homework**

The quality of homework done and the activity of completing homework is more important than the precise amount of time spent on it. Best practice suggests that the amount of time that should be spent on average every night by post primary students should be approximately as follows:

1st year - 1.5 hours

2nd years - 1.5-2 hours

3rd years - 2-3 hours

TY and LCA- varies depending on activity and project work

5th year - 3 hours

6th year - 3.5 hours minimum, weekend study and revision is also essential.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Students**

- Every student has a student journal to record homework for every class throughout the day
- Students should complete homework to the best of their ability to the standard specified by the teacher.
- Students are expected to present their work on time and in a tidy and organised fashion. To facilitate this, certain subjects will have at least one homework-dedicated exercise book or folder.
- A student who, for health or domestic reasons, is unable to complete his homework shall present the relevant teacher(s) with a written note to this effect from his parent(s) / guardian(s).
- If a student is absent, especially when away on extra curricular activities, the onus is on the student to discover what work has been set and to endeavour to complete it within the time given in as far as possible. If a student is ill an appropriate period of time will be given to complete missed homework.
- A teacher may request that homework is signed and dated by a parent/guardian when he/she thinks this is appropriate.
- A student will understand that consistent failure to produce homework will result in a sanction by the teacher.

### **Teachers**

- Teachers should set an appropriate amount and type of homework each night, homework should be differentiated when required.
- Teachers should request that students enter homework in the student journal.
- Teacher should keep appropriate records of checking, correcting and recording homework completed.

- Homework given should be checked by the teacher involved within a reasonable time of the work being presented. Feedback to students, while not ignoring mistakes or poor quality work, should be positive and constructive. Common errors will be highlighted and revised with the class group.

### **Parent/Guardian**

- Parents/guardians should check homework every evening in the student journal and ensure it is completed on time to the best of the child's ability.
- The student journal must be signed once a week by a parent/guardian.
- Parents should ensure there is a space made available in the home and that environment is quiet and suitable for homework and study.
- A regular time should be set by parents every evening to complete homework.
- Parents should encourage their child to complete homework to the best of their ability and assist them where necessary.
- A student who, for health or domestic reasons, is unable to complete his homework shall present the relevant teacher(s) with a written note to this effect from his/her parent/ guardian.

Ratified by BOM: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_