

Ardcoil Rís Homework Policy



**Ardcoil Rís,
North Circular Road,
Limerick**

First Year 2010/2011

**Ardcoil Rís is a Catholic School under the Trusteeship
of ERST**

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1. Mission Statement

Ardcoil Rís aims to promote the spiritual, personal, physical, cultural, aesthetic and academic development of its students. It aims to create a community where students are imbued with Christian values of respect, justice and integrity

2. School Ethos

There has never been any confusion about the aims of Ardcoil Rís. The same mixture of high ideals and practical goals that guided the school when it first opened has continued up to the present day.

Inspired by the vision of Edmund Rice, our school

- Gives priority to education in a living faith whereby students grow to appreciate the life mission of Jesus Christ with a view to being committed to the world as he was
- Has a special concern for the poor and under-privileged
- Is challenged to develop a curriculum which promotes the harmonious growth of the whole person

The quality of the education received at Ardcoil Rís has been, for generations of pupils, a stepping-stone to success in their careers. For over half a century the school has an unrivalled record in the placement of students in university and third level colleges and in careers in the public service, commerce and industry. This success is evidenced by the outstanding achievement of past pupils in the professional and business spheres. The pursuit of excellence is a core objective and the school seeks to maximise the development of each pupil's capabilities in academic and co-curricular areas. While learning is central to all we do, the classroom as only one component of a complex learning culture.

In the classroom active participation as opposed to passive reception is welcomed and encouraged. Pupils are assisted by teachers, tutors and Year heads to carefully organise their private study time. Great care is taken to identify and encourage the direction most suited to each one's personal development. A full time Guidance Counsellor helps to identify each pupil's potential and to advise on further education and career opportunities available to pupils on leaving school. Emphasis on Guidance Counselling is now an integral part of the Junior Programme.

A qualified Learning Support teacher and Resource teacher assist pupils with learning difficulties. Special emphasis is placed on the pupil's ability to express himself orally and to write in a clear and logical manner.

3. Rationale:

- Homework is an integral part of the learning process and this document seeks to assist students, teachers and parents to maximise the benefits of productive homework.
- It is a requirement of the 1998 Education Act that schools “promote the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of the students. The school’s mission statement seeks to provide for the spiritual, emotional, academic, sporting and aesthetic development of the student. It is within this context that this policy has been produced.
- Ardscoil Ris seeks to provide a safe and secure environment to maximise learning. We define learning as the academic development and personal growth of student to his full potential. Completion of homework is an integral part of such learning and development.
- The ethos of the school is reflected in the moral, intellectual, spiritual, personal and social development of our students. An effective homework schedule contributes significantly to the students’ learning.

4. Aims:

The aims of the school are follows:

- To maintain the highest standards of teaching and learning within the school environment
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all students; addressing their needs and enabling them to experience both personal and academic success.
- To encourage the students to value one another and to respect the views of other members of their community.
- To develop the students’ self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline.
- To prepare the students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
- To respond in a sympathetic and understanding way to the concerns, fears and worries of all students
- To provide opportunities for reflection and discussion enabling students to develop framework for responsible decision-making.

Homework reinforces what has been completed in the classroom and is a bridge to the next lesson. It can be the connection between the abstract and the tangible and therefore provides students with the opportunity to further understand the day’s lesson.

As such the aims of this policy are

- To maximise the students’ learning potential
- To ensure the students have a balance of homework each night
- To encourage students to organise their time appropriately
- To assist parents as partners in their sons’ education

- To assist teachers in organising homework assignments
- To encourage all students to take pride in their work, to meet deadlines, to set realistic goals, thus optimising the opportunity provided by their education at Ardscoil Ris.

5. Homework Schedule for year groups and subjects

Set out below is the Ardscoil Ris homework schedule for First Year. It provides details of the content of and the materials required to complete homework in all subject areas. It also suggests the time that should be spent on homework in each subject.

First Year

Art

- Time: Up to 30 minutes.
- Content: The target is one sketch per week. Drawings done at home will be done in the pupils sketch pad, which will record the pupils' development.
- Materials: Sketch pad.
- Correction: These sketches will be graded each week.

Business Studies

- Time: 20 minutes per class period.
- Homework content: Written homework is given at the end of most classes but can involve reading over material covered in class.
- Materials used: Textbook, workbook, copybook, record books, newspaper and magazine articles.
- Correction: Written homework is checked regularly in class, oral questioning may also be carried out. Chapter tests on particular topics are also given.

English

- Time: 15 minutes per class period.
- Content: It should reinforce what is done in the classroom and be a bridge to the next day's work. The type of work depends on the topics being covered in the class: short exercises to check comprehension and writing skills; letter and diary writing; imaginative pieces; introduction to exam style questions and answers; revision exercises; essays (which will take longer than usual exercises and will be given for weekend work).
- Correction: Homework is checked in a variety of ways: copies corrected in class; answers read out in class and commented upon; work checked for completion; copies collected, graded and progress recorded. The teacher chooses whichever method is appropriate to the subject matter.

French

- Time: 15-20 minutes per night.

- Content: Reinforcement of class content by written and learning exercises, weekly target: to learn 10-20 new words and 1 verb, revision to be done at the end of every chapter.
- Materials: Textbook and copy.
- Correction: Copies are both checked and collected regularly, homework is corrected on the board and students are required to do corrections every day into their copy.

Gaeilge

- Time: Homework 15-20 minutes each night.
- Content: It is essential to reinforce class content by written and learning exercises after each class period. Students are encouraged to think in Irish and to utilise the acquired vocabulary and phrases, new vocabulary to be learned and grammar in context of topic, aural to be assigned occasionally.
- Materials: Book + workbook, A4 copy hardback for vocabulary and copy for homework.
- Correction: To be done each day in class. Copies to be checked intermittently.

Geography

- Time: 15 minutes.
- Content: Written homework, revision of class work, practicing of diagrams, taking note of news reports on topical issues covered in course.
- Materials: Textbook, workbook, notebook, copy, worksheets, photographs, newspaper articles.
- Correction: Homework is to be corrected regularly in class, written and verbal questioning. Workbook and notes copy to be checked intermittently in class.

German

- Time: 20 minutes per class period.
- Content: It is essential to reinforce class content by written and learning exercises after each class period. E.g. learn new vocabulary, verbs, complete dialogue, school subjects, days of week etc. Written homework assigned from text book or work book. Tape work is usually done once per week. Grammar is to be learnt in the context of the topic being studied.
- Materials: Textbook and Work Book, Student CD, one copy book.

History

- Time: 15-20 minutes homework per class period.
- Content: Theory, projects, revision questions at end of chapter, study, closed-tests and essay writing.
- Materials: Textbook, books outside of textbook copybook, notes-copy, handouts and worksheets, revision books and DVDs.
- Correction: Homework is corrected each day in class. Copies are checked regularly in class. They are corrected and written comments provided on them in relation to how well students are doing, and signed.

Mathematics

- Time: 30 minutes per class period
- Content: Homework is viewed as the connection between the abstract and the tangible i.e. real-life understanding. This will consist primarily of questions taken from the textbook with revision handouts used where relevant.
- Materials: Students will use their copybooks to complete their homework exercise.
- Correction: This is done regularly to reinforce the concepts previously covered and to identify any remaining difficulties and miscomprehensions. Students' homework copybooks will be checked on a regular basis in class.

Music

- Time: 15-20 minutes work is appropriate.
- Content: Homework is explained and distributed with workbook assignment related to classroom topic completed. It should reinforce what is completed in class and link with the following lesson, recorder practice.
- Materials: recorder and workbook.
- Correction: At beginning of each lesson.

Science

- Time: 10-15 minutes.
- Content: Practical experiments are written up as part of homework in student report book, learning work on new concepts, definitions.
 - Materials: Chapter exercises into homework copies.

Technical Graphics

- Time: 20 minutes.
- Content: Complete sheet from class and/or practise area work.
- Materials: A4 folder.
- Correction: collect and grade 3 times.

Sanctions for non completion of homework may include

- Directive to complete
- Verbal warning
- Note in journal
- Telephone call to parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Complaint slip
- Referral to Disciplinary Committee
- Detention
- Suspension/Exclusion