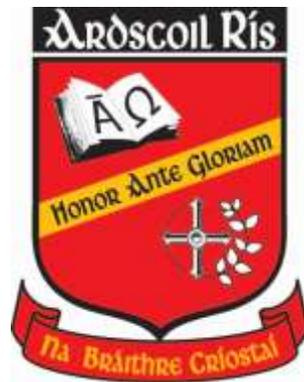


Ardscoil Rís Homework Policy

Third Years



Ardscoil Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust School
North Circular Road
Limerick

Ardscoil Rís is a Catholic School under
the Trusteeship of the Edmund Rice

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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 Ris. 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 Ris 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 Third 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.

Third Year

Art

- Time: 40 minutes per week.
- Content: Target will be at least one sketch per week based on the students chosen topic (obligatory project), during the year students will be expected to take home some clay and get used to the texture of same. They will be expected to make a small object over a period of two weeks. This will be a trial run for the obligatory 3D piece of their project.

Business Studies

- Time: 20 minutes class period, be it written homework or revising material covered in class.
- Content: written homework is given at the end of most classes, when starting or developing a topic. This may not always be possible but they students are expected to study the material covered during class
- Materials: textbook, workbook, business record books, newspapers.
- Correction: written homework is checked in class, questioning of material covered takes place regularly. Topic tests are also given and corrected. Revision of a topic in the form of written exercises is also given.

English

- Time: 30-40 minutes.
- Content: Exercises on class topics will be assigned regularly. Longer exercises will be assigned such as book reviews, essays and exam type questions. The focus will be on exam papers as a resource for homework assignments.
- Correction: Work will be checked in manner similar to that outlined in first and second year above.

French

- Time: 30 minutes.

- Content: One area of written production each week e.g. letter/postcard/note. Aural work to be done at home as it arises in the chapter of the book, learning of vocabulary, grammar, verbs, and sentences for written production.
- Materials: Textbook, exam papers, 2 copies, 1 folder for handouts, CD.
- Correction: Copies and exam papers both checked and collected regularly.

Gaeilge

- Time: 30 minutes.
- Content: continuation of Second Year with emphasis on practice in Junior Cert Past Exam papers, guided revision with homework will also play an important role.

Geography

- Time: 30 minutes per class period.
- Content: Exam questions, study notes, questions from textbook, theory to be learned of work covered that day.
- Materials: Textbook, workbook, exam papers, ordnance survey maps, revision book, homework copy, notes-copy, Geography textbooks other than the one prescribed, handouts, cut-outs from newspaper where appropriate and internet.
- Correction: Homework is corrected each day in class. Copies are checked intermittently in class, copies collected twice per month, corrected and written comments on them in relation to how well students are doing and signed.

German

- Time: 30 minutes per class period.
- Content: There will be more emphasis on examination paper questions when assigning homework, e.g. writing letters, postcards, answering questions on reading comprehensions, signs and notices and advertisement grids.
- Aural work assigned each week, students will learn vocabulary associated with topic, constant revision of vocabulary.
- Materials: Books: Junior Certificate Examination Papers, CD.

History

- Time: 15-20 minutes per class period.
- Materials: Textbook, books outside of textbook, copybook, notes-copy, handouts + worksheets, revision books and DVDs.

Mathematics

- Time: Higher 40 minutes per night Ordinary level 30 minutes.
- Content: Guided revision is encouraged throughout the year. This will consist of questions from the textbook along with relevant questions taken from the junior certificate exam papers. Revision handouts will also be used where appropriate.
- Materials: Textbook and Exam papers.
- Correction: is done daily to reinforce the concepts previously covered and to identify any remaining difficulties and misconceptions. The internet (www.examinations.ie) will be used regularly when correcting past examination

papers so students can see suggested solutions and appreciate where marks are awarded and lost. Students' homework copybooks will be checked on a regular basis in class.

Music

- Time: 30-45 minutes
- Content: Homework is explained and distributed with workbook assignment and exam questions from Junior Certificate papers related to classroom topic completed, revision of classroom topic from previous lesson, homework Exercise/Practical Activity/Exam Question: To reinforce new material with clear marking schemes for exam questions, revision programme: Suitable plan in preparation for examinations, recorder Practice: Linked with the practical examination for the Junior Certificate that takes place during practical and oral weeks.
- Materials: Workbook and recorder.
- Correction: At the beginning of lesson.

Science

- Time: 10-30 minutes
- Content: Relevant mandatory experiment write-ups in student report book, chapter exercises into homework copies, learning work on new concepts, definitions, exam question practice from exam papers, coursework B (project work) research and write ups, revision of first and second year work.
- Materials: Textbook, Exam papers.

Technical Graphics

- Time: 40 Minutes.
- Content: 4 questions from section B to be handed up at end of each month to be corrected, honours exam question-end of each topic (continuous assessment), short question booklet to be filled in post Christmas.

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