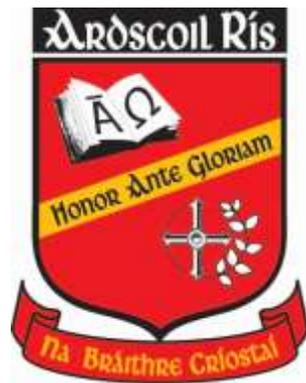


# **Ardscoil Rís Homework Policy**

## **Sixth 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

## **Table of Contents**

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>School Ethos</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Rationale</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Aims</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Homework Schedule for year groups and subjects</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Sixth Years</b>	<b>3</b>

## **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 Sixth 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.

### **Sixth Year**

#### **Accounting**

- Time: Minimum 30-45 minutes.
- Homework content: written homework, revision of class work, practicing of exam questions.
- Materials: textbook, notes copy, exercise copy and examination papers.
- Correction: Homework to be corrected in class. Exam papers and copies to be checked intermittently in class. Exam questions to be corrected in class.

#### **Art**

- Time: 45-50 minutes.
- Content: One History and Appreciation of Art exercise per week. This will consist of written work to include the making of sketches to illustrate points being made in the written work. Two Art essays per term based on either history or appreciation of Art.

#### **Business**

- Time: 30 minutes
- Homework content: Written homework, revision of class work, practicing of exam questions.
- Correction: homework to be corrected each day in class, written or oral questioning, notes, exam papers and copies to be checked intermittently in class, correction of ABQ's and exam questions, test at end of a topic.
- Materials used: Textbook, notebook, exam papers and business related newspapers articles.

#### **English**

- Time: 30 minutes to an hour, depending on the assignment.
- Content: Homework will consist of shorter exercises to focus on the particular aspect of the topic in hand. At the end of each module, for example, a poet's work, a play, a novel or a film, a full Leaving Cert style question (or series of

questions) will be assigned. Essay work and Question B type exercises appropriate to Paper One will be assigned throughout Fifth and Sixth Year. For some of these homework assignments students will be given a completion date when work will be submitted for correction and marking. Exam style questions suitable for higher or ordinary level will be assigned and marked accordingly.

### **French**

- Time: 45-50 minutes.
- Content: Emphasis on preparation of oral topics - one homework exercise per week. Reading comprehension skills in target language- 1-2 written exercises per week. Written production- 1 per week. Listening comprehension- 1-2 per week.
- Materials needed: Textbook, aural book, oral book, 3 copies, 1 folder for handouts.
- Correction: Copies both checked and collected regularly and a record of homework kept. Students are expected to do corrections into their copies.

### **Gaeilge**

- Higher level: long questions to be done at the weekend: for example an essay on a topic prepared in class and vocabulary practised on short exercises during the week or a question on the drama. These questions could take up to 2 hours at the weekend.
- Listening to be assigned a week in advance and prepared as part of homework : could take 25-30 minutes per week
- Oral work : notes prepared on an ongoing basis need to spend 25 minutes per week gathering vocabulary and phrases for BT.
- Literature: short questions during the week 25-30 minutes Emphasis to be placed on practice of Exam type questions (Past Exam papers) in the second half of the year.
- Lower level 10-15 minutes per night
- Assignments oral, written or listening need to be closely connected to work done in class on that particular day as many students doing the subject at this level have no great interest in the language. A variation/ mixture of all 3 types of homework is essential. Exam papers to be done in second half of the year.

### **Geography**

- Time: 35 minutes per class period.
- Content: Map-reading, sketching, drawing diagrams, photograph analysis, questions from textbook, global updates, essays and learn geographic terminologies and theory to be learnt 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, internet and PowerPoint presentations.
- Correction: Homework is corrected each day in class. Copies are checked intermittently in class, copies collected once per month, corrected and written comments on them in relation to how well students are doing and signed.

## **German**

- Time: 30-40 minutes per night.
- Content: There will be more emphasis on examination paper questions when assigning homework, e.g. letter writing, answering questions on reading comprehensions and grammar. One letter to be assigned weekly.
- The oral topics to be well prepared - Constant revision of roll plays, picture sequences and the general questions. One picture description/roll play to be revised, then heard in class.
- Extra handouts given on exam topics to be learnt for homework.
- Tape work from Exam papers to be completed in class twice per week. New vocabulary to be learnt.
- Grammar: Regular revision of grammar e.g. the tenses, cases, adjective endings to be learnt in the context of the topic being covered.
- Materials: Books: Hörschatz 2, Sprachschatz, Handouts, Oral Book, one copy book, one memorandum copy book

## **History**

- Time: 30 minutes.
- Content: Textbook questions and exam questions.
- Materials: A4 Copy, textbook and exam papers.
- Correction: Homework is regularly checked in class with time allocated to address areas of difficulty; copies are collected regularly and returned to students with relevant feedback.

## **Mathematics**

- Time: 40 Higher Level 40-45 minutes Ordinary Level 30 minutes.
- Content: Guided revision is assigned on a regular basis. Homework will take the form of questions from the textbook as well as complementary questions from past leaving certificate papers so as to make students aware of the level of knowledge and competency needed to complete exam style questions.
- This will consist of questions from the textbook along with relevant questions taken from past leaving certificate exam papers. Revision handouts will also be used where appropriate.
- Correction: This is done daily to reinforce the concepts previously covered and to identify any remaining difficulties and misconceptions. The internet ([www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie)) will be used regularly when correcting past examination papers so as students can see suggested solutions and appreciate where marks are awarded and lost. Students' copybooks will be checked on a regular basis in class.

## **Music**

- Time: 45-60 minutes.
- Content: Homework is explained and distributed with workbook assignment and examination questions 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. Exam style questions and instrumental practice suitable for

higher and ordinary level will be assigned and marked accordingly. Suitable plan in preparation for examinations.

- Correction: Is done at beginning of lesson.

### **Science – Biology, Chemistry, Physics**

- Time: 40 minutes minimum.
- Content: Mandatory practical write-ups into students lab report books, relevant exercises at end of chapters into homework copy, learning work on new concepts, definitions, etc, exam question practice from past papers, revision of fifth year work.

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### **Design and Communication Graphics**

- Time: 30 minutes per class.
- See 5<sup>th</sup> year until Christmas.
- Paper/month after Christmas to be handed up for correction, continuous assessment.

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

### **Applied Maths**

- Applied maths is a subject greatly dependant on student based practice and application.
- Students spend a huge amount of time doing problem solving both in the classroom and at study time.
- Students will be assigned questions for approx. 20 minutes after each lesson i.e. 4 times per week.
- Occasionally students will need to apply themselves for longer to work through more challenging problems.
- However students will be expected to review their work each weekend.