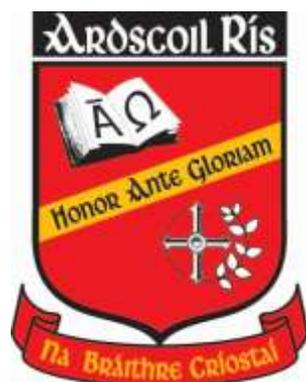


Ardscoil Rís Homework Policy

Transition 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 Transition 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.

Transition Year

Transition Year in Ardscoil Ris provides a unique learning experience for experience for students. It is pertinent that a brief description of the work ethos of Transition Year be included in this policy.

- Transition Year in Ardscoil Ris seeks to assist students to become independent learners and thinkers. In pursuit of this goal homework may be assigned in some subject areas.
- Some subjects/modules lend themselves to project and assignment work. Students will be informed by the teacher of each module of the specific work type that is required for that module. The students will be given guidelines explaining what the project work involves and they will be set deadlines for the completion of such work.
- The highest standard of application is expected of Transition Year students in this regard.

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