



# Beaufort College

## Homework and Study Policy

### Introduction

This homework and study policy has been developed in partnership with all members of Beaufort College's School Community. This policy recognises homework and study as an integral part of delivering the highest quality of teaching and learning in our school.

The purpose of homework and study is to consolidate and extend the learning from class. Beaufort College values the role of homework and study. It encourages all school partners to work together to ensure that homework and study form a positive, active, and engaging learning experience.

### School context and policy relationship to the school mission statement

Beaufort College is a coeducational second-level school under the trusteeship of the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB). The school has DEIS status and is committed to delivering equal opportunity for our students. The characteristic spirit of the school as stated in our mission statement *seeks to enrich students' lives and empower them for life's challenges*. This homework and study policy reflects the school's ethos of **quality education**. This policy also reflects the LMETB core values of excellence in education, equality, care, respect, and community.

### Scope of this Policy

Focusing on homework and study, this policy applies to:

- All students
- All teachers
- All school leaders
- All school-based student support services. Support services include:
  - BFL (Behaviour for Learning)
  - HSCL (Home School Community Liaison)
  - SCP (School Completion Programme)
  - JCSP Library service
  - Guidance Counselling
  - AEN (Additional Educational Needs)

It is applicable at every level of activity in the school and is strongly anchored in everyday classroom practices and student routines.

## Understanding Homework and Study

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***HOMework IS THE TASK WHILE STUDY IS THE EXTENSION OF THAT TASK TO ENSURE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND A SKILL/INFORMATION FULLY AND CAN REPLICATE.***

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Homework	Study
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assigned by teachers.</li><li>• Reinforces learning, practices skills, extends understanding, and prepares for assessments.</li><li>• Completed outside of regular class time.</li><li>• Due on a specific date and may span several classes.</li><li>• Student responsibility to complete and submit on time.</li><li>• Focuses on specific tasks related to class material.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Self-directed learning.</li><li>• Aimed at acquiring knowledge, understanding concepts, and mastering skills.</li><li>• Can occur at any time, not necessarily tied to specific assignments or deadlines.</li><li>• Primarily the student's responsibility.</li><li>• Encompasses a range of activities like reading, reviewing, practicing, and researching.</li><li>• Broadens understanding beyond what is covered in class.</li></ul>

### Rationale for Homework & Study

Homework is an essential component of teaching and learning, helping to reinforce learning and promote academic success. However, it's important for teachers to carefully consider the purpose and design of homework assignments to ensure they are meaningful, manageable, and aligned with learning objectives. The rationale for assigning homework is:

- To provide students with an opportunity to reinforce what they have learned in class. Practice problems and reading assignments help solidify concepts and deepen understanding.
- To extend learning beyond the classroom, encouraging students to explore topics further on their own. This fosters curiosity and independent learning skills.
- To prepare students for upcoming assessments, whether they are quizzes, tests, or exams. By completing homework, students can identify areas where they need additional practice or review before assessments.
- To provide teachers with valuable feedback on students' understanding and progress. Teachers can use homework to assess students' comprehension, identify misconceptions, and tailor instruction to meet individual needs.
- Assigning homework teaches students important life skills such as responsibility and accountability. By completing homework assignments on time, students learn to prioritise tasks and manage their workload effectively.
- To provide an opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's education. Parents can support their child's learning by helping with homework, reviewing assignments, and communicating with teachers about their child's progress.

*Hattie suggests that the more complex, open-ended, and unstructured tasks are, the lower the effect sizes. Short, frequent homework closely monitored by teachers has more impact than their converse*

*forms and effects are higher for higher ability students than lower ability students, higher for older (post-primary) rather than younger (primary) students. Finally, the evidence is that teacher involvement in homework is key to its success.*

## Homework and Study Supports

<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	Modules on “Study Skills” are delivered through Wellbeing and SPHE.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	Modules on “Study Skills” are delivered through Wellbeing and SPHE.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Study Skills Seminar is presented to all Students bi-annually.</li><li>• Study Skills is emphasised in Wellbeing and SPHE.</li></ul>
<b>Transition Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intensive Study Skills Seminars are presented for a full day to all students.</li><li>• Study Skills is emphasised in Wellbeing and SPHE.</li></ul>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intensive Study Skills Seminars are presented for a full day to all students.</li><li>• Study Skills is emphasised in Wellbeing and SPHE.</li></ul>
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intensive Study Skills Seminars are presented for a full day to all students.</li><li>• Study Skills is emphasised in Wellbeing and SPHE.</li></ul>

**THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT ARE AVAILABLE FOR MORE INDIVIDUALISED SUPPORT WHERE STUDENTS REQUIRE SPECIFIC TARGETED INTERVENTION. REFERRAL PATHWAYS ARE THROUGH FAOI BHLÁTH OR STUDENT SELF-REFERRAL.**

## Expectations for Tutors, Teachers, Students and Parent/Guardian(s)

### For Tutors

- Emphasise the importance of homework and study during Tutor period, integrating expectations into daily routines.
- Encourage students to excel in their homework assignments.
- Regularly review student journals, conducting both whole-class and spot checks.
- Collaborate with Year Head and Assistant Year Head to address emerging patterns or issues.
- Support communication between school and parents regarding homework-related concerns.
- Conduct student learning journal checks at least once a week.

### For Teachers

- Promote the value and importance of homework by assigning homework aligned with learning objectives, and subject matter in every class.
- Clearly communicate homework assignments by writing the details on the board ensuring that each student copies the instruction in their student learning journal before the end of class.
- Check student understanding of the homework expectation and invite clarification if required.
- Differentiate homework to cater to diverse learning needs, providing support or extension activities.
- Correct homework in a timely manner and offer formative feedback, recognising student efforts and achievements (Scáthán section of the student learning journal).
- Regularly monitor homework completion, addressing non-compliance or difficulties promptly.

- Be flexible in accommodating individual student circumstances, providing alternative arrangements or extensions as needed.
- Communicate homework expectations and progress to parent/guardian(s) to keep them informed about their child's academic responsibilities and achievements.

#### For Students

- Place the student learning journal on the desk at the start of each class.
- Record all homework instructions in the appropriate day of the student learning journal.
- Ask teacher to explain further if the homework instructions require clarification.
- Approach homework with honesty and integrity aiming for high-quality work that meets teacher expectations.
- Work with focus and concentration, without distractions from mobile devices or TV, etc.
- Complete assignments fully and submit them as required.
- Communicate with teachers if experiencing difficulties.
- Manage time effectively to balance homework with other commitments.

#### For Parents

- Create a supportive home environment for completing homework by establishing consistent routines and minimising distractions like mobile devices and TV.
- Encourage completion of homework; monitor your child's progress by signing their Student Learning Journal at least once a week.
- Offer appropriate assistance and guidance when needed while encouraging independence in completing homework.
- Monitor the Scáthán section of the student learning journal daily and discuss any challenges or achievements noted.
- Provide positive reinforcement for effort and achievement in completing homework assignments.
- Maintain open communication with teachers regarding homework expectations and concerns.
- Support the school guidelines and policy regarding homework.

#### Time Guidelines for Homework & Study



<b>1<sup>st</sup> Year</b>	1 – 1.5 hours daily
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Year</b>	1.5 – 2 hours daily
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Year</b>	2 – 2.5 hours daily
<b>TY</b>	Variable depending on project
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	3 hours daily
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Year</b>	3+ hours daily



**lmetb**

*Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí*  
Louth and Meath Education and Training Board

## Policy for Resolution/Ratification by LMETB Board

<b>School</b>	Beaufort College
<b>Policy Title</b>	Homework & Study Policy
<b>Date of School Board of Management Meeting</b>	22/05/2024
<b>Please confirm if a quorum was present at the meeting (4)</b>	Yes
<b>Please confirm if the completed Policy Consultation Record was presented at the meeting</b>	Yes
<b>Policy Proposed By</b>	
<b>Policy Seconded By</b>	
<b>Signed</b>	 Acting Chairperson of Board of Management
<b>Date</b>	22/05/2024
<b>Signed</b>	 Principal
<b>Date</b>	22/05/2024