



*St. Bricin's College
Railway Road,
Corporation Lands,
Belturbet,
Co. Cavan
H14 P897*

Homework Guidelines 2026-2029

***Inclusive, Supportive, and Aligned with Best Practice - National
Educational Psychological Service (NEPS)***

Supporting All Learners: Additional Education Needs, EAL, Gifted & Talented, and Diverse Needs

Policy Statement

At St. Bricin's College, homework is a vital part of our commitment to high-quality, inclusive education. We recognise that our students have a wide range of learning needs, backgrounds, and talents. Homework is designed to reinforce classroom learning, foster independent study skills, and support every student's personal growth—whether they are developing English language skills, seeking extra challenge, or requiring additional support.

What is Homework?

Homework is any task assigned by a teacher to be completed outside of class, including reading, writing, practical skills, research, revision, or creative projects. Tasks are differentiated to ensure accessibility for all learners.

Aims and Purpose

- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed in class.
- Encourage self-discipline, motivation, and independent study habits.
- Extend learning through research, reading, and creative tasks.
- Involve parents/guardians in their child's learning journey.
- Develop time management and organisational skills.
- Provide opportunities for all students to succeed, including EAL learners and gifted/talented students.

Homework Guidelines

- Homework is assigned regularly and recorded in the student journal and/or online platform (e.g., Microsoft Teams)
- Tasks are differentiated to meet the needs of diverse learners:
 - **Gifted & Talented students:** Extension activities, open-ended tasks, and opportunities for independent research are provided.
 - **Students with additional needs:** Homework is adapted in consultation with the SEN team to ensure accessibility and success.
 - **EAL students:** Homework instructions are clear, accessible, and may include visual supports, glossaries, or simplified language. Additional time or support is available as needed.
- All students are encouraged to attend free after-school supported study (4–5pm Monday-Friday), where snacks are provided and staff are available to help with homework.

Recommended Study Times by Year Group

Based on best practice:

- **First Year:** 1–1.5 hours per evening
- **Second Year:** 2–2.5 hours per evening
- **Third Year:** 2–2.5 hours per evening (plus weekend revision)
- **Transition Year:** 1–1.5 hours (varies with project work)
- **Fifth Year:** 3–3.5 hours per evening
- **Sixth Year:** 3–3.5 hours per evening (plus weekend revision)

Benefits of Study

- Improves academic achievement and understanding.
- Builds confidence and independent learning skills.
- Enhances time management and organisational abilities.
- Prepares students for exams and future learning.
- Encourages parental involvement and home-school partnership.
- Supports personal growth and resilience.

Study Plans & Supported Study

- All students are encouraged to use a study timetable to plan homework and revision.
- **Free** after-school supported study is available daily from 4–5pm, Monday- Friday, with snacks provided.
- Staff are present to help with homework, revision, and study skills.
- EAL students and those with additional needs receive tailored support during study sessions.

Study Skills Workshops

- Study skills workshops are provided each year to all students in early January, focusing on:
 - Effective study techniques
 - Time management
 - Revision strategies
 - Note-taking and organisation
 - Exam preparation
- Workshops are differentiated for EAL learners and gifted/talented students.

Roles and Responsibilities

Students

- Record homework and check for reminders/deadlines.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability and seek help when needed.
- Attend after-school study sessions for additional support.
- Use study plans and attend workshops to improve skills.
- For gifted/talented students: Engage with extension tasks and independent projects.
- For EAL students: Use bilingual dictionaries, ask for clarification, and access language support as needed.
- For gifted/talented students: Engage with extension tasks and independent projects.

Parents/Guardians

- Provide a quiet, distraction-free space for homework.
- Encourage regular homework routines and attendance at after-school study.
- Communicate with teachers if homework is too challenging or if additional support is needed.

Teachers

- Set homework that is purposeful, achievable, and differentiated.
- Ensure instructions are clear and accessible for all learners.
- Provide feedback and monitor completion.
- Offer extension and support tasks as appropriate.
- Encourage attendance at after-school study and liaise with AEN/SST/EAL teams.

School Leadership & Student Support Team

- Monitor the effectiveness of the homework policy and review regularly.
- Ensure after-school study is well-resourced and inclusive.
- Facilitate ongoing consultation with students, parents, and staff.
- Liaise with year heads and subject teachers around homework completion concerns

Suitable Homework Activities

- Written assignments, reading, planning, research, creative projects.
- Revision, practical tasks, presentations, group work, surveys.
- Extension tasks for gifted/talented students (e.g., competitions, independent research).
- Language development activities for EAL students (e.g., vocabulary practice, reading in English and home language).

Monitoring & Review

- Homework policy is reviewed biennially, with input from students, parents, and staff.
- Effectiveness is measured by student progress, engagement, feedback, and attainment.

This policy was ratified by the St. Bricin's College Board of Management on:

Signed: _____

(Chairperson)

Date: _____

25/3/2026

Signed: _____

(Principal)

Date: _____

25/03/2026