



Polasaí Obair Bhaile (Homework Policy)

The 'Polasaí Obair Bhaile' (Homework Policy) of Coláiste De Lacy aims to foster an appreciation of the importance of homework as *an integral part of the teaching and learning process*.

Rationale for Assigning Obair Bhaile:

Obair bhaile is important in Coláiste De Lacy because it:

- ✓ Enables students to review and practise the skills learned during class
- ✓ Leads to improvements in learning
- ✓ Generates an understanding of the benefits of learning
- ✓ Improves student confidence in their learning process
- ✓ Encourages students to become independent learners
- ✓ Re-enforces class learning and prepares the student for the next lesson
- ✓ Provides a platform for further learning
- ✓ Provides feedback to the teacher on student progress
- ✓ Builds a link between the home and school
- ✓ Nurtures responsibility, perseverance, self-discipline and time management
- ✓ Improves literacy and numeracy
- ✓ Helps students to construct knowledge, develop deeper understandings and make links between the concepts to which they have been introduced during lessons
- ✓ Provides an opportunity for students to apply their learning

What is Obair Bhaile?

Obair bhaile (homework) can take many forms, depending on the subject and the topic. The following is a sample list of the various forms that obair bhaile can take:

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| ✓ Answering questions in a copy on a sheet | ✓ Finishing work not completed in class |
| ✓ Practice assignments | ✓ Reading |
| ✓ Preparation of materials e.g. for Art or Home Economics | ✓ Writing up experiments |
| ✓ Research for a topic or for a project, to be completed over a set time | ✓ Practical work |
| ✓ Learning information from notes, worksheets or other sources | ✓ Transferring skills to new situations |
| ✓ Revision of topics covered | ✓ Practising listening/spoken skills/musical skills |
| ✓ Learning vocabulary or definitions | ✓ Writing essays |
| ✓ Writing up missed work | ✓ Watching programmes and reporting |
| | ✓ Activities using the iPad |

General Guidelines regarding Obair Bhaile:

Coláiste De Lacy recommend that obair bhaile should be:

- ✓ Designed to improve, deepen or engage learning
- ✓ Related to the ability of the student at that time
- ✓ Administered at a differential level to accommodate the needs of all learners
- ✓ Used to generate ideas and give rise to independent research
- ✓ Clear, fair, realistic and consistent

Students are encouraged to talk to their múinteoir/Caomhnóir if they are experiencing difficulty with their obair bhaile.

The amount of time spent on obair bhaile varies considerably from student to student. It depends on the subject, topic, daily schedule of lessons and the presence or absence of distractions. It is therefore extremely difficult to quantify the amount of time that a first year student should be spending on their obair bhaile. As a **rough guide**, first year students should spend **approximately 1 – 1.5 hours** per night on their obair bhaile. Some student may need to spend up to 2 hours on occasion; however, this should not be every night. Please contact your son/daughter's Caomhnóir if you need to discuss your son/daughter's obair bhaile.

Important Notes:

At some point during their time in Coláiste De Lacy, a student may experience difficulty with their obair bhaile. If a student fails to present their obair bhaile on one occasion or if it is not to a high standard for that student, the teacher may record this in the notes section of the dialann for the parent/guardian to sign. This is simply to communicate the incident to the parent/guardian. The student will be asked to complete the work that night instead.

If obair bhaile is not presented on more than one occasion, then the teacher must inform the parents/guardians of their concern by writing a note in the notes section of the dialann. Additional obair bhaile may be assigned to the student or the student may be asked to complete the work missed at lunchtime. Parents/guardians may also be contacted by the teacher to discuss their concern.

If a student repeatedly fails to produce obair bhaile, is not producing a high enough standard, or there is no evidence that they are even attempting their obair bhaile, then the Caomhnóir will arrange a meeting to discuss this serious matter with the parents/guardians. The Principal or Deputy Principal may join the meeting if they are available. The student **may** be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the school Code of Conduct.

Roles and Responsibilities:

<p><u>Students are expected to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Have their dialann with them at all times➤ Write all obair bhaile into the dialann➤ Organise what they need and their time in order to complete their obair bhaile➤ Bring home their school bags every day➤ Develop a routine for doing obair bhaile➤ Complete their obair bhaile neatly and to the best of their ability➤ Present all obair bhaile on time➤ Ensure that all obair bhaile and other materials needed for school are in their school bag➤ If a student is absent from the class, they must get their class work and obair bhaile from their múinteoir or classmates➤ Charge their iPads every night as part of their obair bhaile	<p><u>Múinteoirí are expected to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Highlight the importance of doing obair bhaile properly➤ Set appropriate obair bhaile for each class➤ Explain obair bhaile clearly➤ Give students sufficient time to take the obair bhaile down from the board into their dialann➤ Provide supporting notes/materials where appropriate➤ Record the obair bhaile given in each lesson➤ Check and correct the obair bhaile➤ Keep records regarding student completion➤ Notify parents early where there is an issue regarding obair bhaile
<p><u>Parents are expected to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Support this policy➤ Provide a suitable environment for the student to do their obair bhaile➤ Ensure that obair bhaile is completed➤ Provide the materials needed where necessary➤ Respond to notes from teachers➤ Notify teachers, by writing a note in the notes section of the dialann, where there is a problem regarding obair bhaile➤ Check the dialann every night➤ Sign the dialann every weekend	<p><u>The Caomhnóir is expected to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Explain the importance of obair bhaile➤ Encourage students to do their obair bhaile to a high standard➤ Check the student dialann weekly➤ Liaise with the Year Head on a regular basis➤ Liaise with parents when an issue arises➤ Review overall progress with the student weekly