



"The glory of God is
a human being fully alive!"

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Date of Review: November 2020

Date of Next Review: November 2021

Homework Policy 2020-21

It is the policy at St. Joseph's that homework is set regularly for all pupils.

1. RATIONALE

"The importance of homework to educational achievement cannot be denied. If pupils receive appropriate homework and do it on a regular basis over a five year period, they will, in effect, be receiving the equivalent of at least one additional year of full-time education" *'Improving Secondary schools'*

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

2. AIMS

Homework enables pupils to:

- **Consolidate** and **embed** work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- **Develop** research skills.
- **Challenge** students in their learning and understanding ▪ Provide **feedback** in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their **independent study skills** e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- **Engage parental co-operation** and support.

3. AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

Key Stage 3 (Years 7 – 8)

- Homework will be set at least once a week in the following subjects:

RE Geography

English

History

Maths

Science

French / Spanish

- Homework will be set once a fortnight in the following subjects:

Art

Computing

Music

Technology

- The amount of homework set per week in each Year Group is an approximation

YEAR	HOURS OF HOMEWORK
7	5+
8	7+

Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 & 11)

Homework will be set at once a week in each subject studied.

RE

Option A

English

Option B

Maths

Option C

Science

Option D

YEAR	HOURS OF HOMEWORK
9	8 - 10
10	8 - 10
11	10 +

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 & 13)

Sixth Form students are required to match every hour of lesson time with an hour of independent study outside of the classroom. This means a minimum of four hours per subject each week, in addition to any homework set.

Homework will be set at least once a week in each subject studied.

4. MONITORING HOMEWORK SET

- Planners should record all homework set. If they have no planner, the student must produce one the next day or buy a new one.
- Parents must sign weekly and check that homework's are being done on time.
- Form tutors will check planners regularly, note concerns and inform Subject Leaders.
- Subject Leaders should monitor their subject areas to ensure relevant homework is being set regularly.
- SLT will carry out regular homework diary checks.

5. MONITORING HOMEWORK DONE

Homework not completed or of an unacceptable standard, either in content or effort, should be dealt with accordingly.

- In the first instance – to be dealt with by the subject teacher and department
- Persistent offenders need to be reported to the Pastoral Leader and further sanctions will be used.

6. HOME LEARNING

- Completing work outside of lessons is essential to pupils' achievement.
- Home Learning allows for opportunities to consolidate and enhance what has been covered in lessons.

- There will be many occasions where home learning prepares pupils for their next lessons, so completion is vital.
- Home learning should challenge and provide opportunities to broaden learning and provide enrichment. It should encourage independence and develop patterns that will be beneficial for future working patterns.
- As well as being directed through homework, we encourage our pupils to regularly research and review content and skills currently being covered in class. Such habits will enable pupils to become proficient and independent learners – traits crucial for academic achievement.

7. 'e-HOMEWORK' - Microsoft Teams / Bedrock/ Forms / 'Outlook' Email etc

Each pupil has a Microsoft Office 365 account through which they can access their school email, Teams files and messaging (set up for each class the students belong to) along with the full suite of Microsoft Office apps. This online service is a fantastic resource for independent learning, setting, resourcing, completing and submitting homework that should be utilised by pupils regularly as part of their home learning.

Pupils are advised to be checking their emails and Teams feed on a daily basis.

In the event of a pupil being unable to logon whilst at school or during normal term time then they can request a password reset via their tutor/teacher. Should a pupil experience this problem during a period of being away from school eg. school holidays, self-isolation or wider lockdown, then the password reset request needs to be made by a parent, ideally to the pupil's Head of Year in the first instance.

Students in Years 7 – 10 will be required to complete two Bedrock lessons at home each week. These lessons are bespoke and tailored to the needs of your child. The main intent of these lessons is to improve both your child's vocabulary and reading ability. Each lesson will need to be done according to the schedule that your child's English teacher has set out.

8. SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- We would ask you to look at your child's planner each night to find out what has been set so that you can encourage and support your child's efforts. We would ask you to check and sign the planner once a week to confirm that the correct home learning has been set and completed by your child as well as enquire about any online homework tasks which have been set.

- Understandably many parents feel that they cannot do a great deal to help their children with their learning and indeed we wouldn't encourage you to help them so much that you end up doing it for them! However there are several useful ways you can help. These include:
 - checking the quality of the work your child intends to hand in;
 - looking at the grades and teacher comments work receives and discussing these with your child;
 - making a note of when tests are due and asking what mark your child received;
 - testing what has been learned;
 - listening to your child read completed work;
 - encouraging and praising your child when the learning has been completed;
 - make it clear to your child that you think home learning is important;
 - Asking your child to explain what he or she has been studying.

- Pupils should not underestimate the importance of sleep. Pupils should be getting between 8 to 10 hours per night. Also pupils should avoid using electronic devices before sleep as this impacts heavily on the body getting to sleep quickly.