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

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# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

## HOMEWORK POLICY

**Date of Review: January 2025**

**Date of Next Review:**

**January 2027**

# Homework Policy 2025-27

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 attainment 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 through 'flipped learning' activities.
- **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

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>HOURS OF HOMEWORK</b>
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

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>HOURS OF HOMEWORK</b>
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, of which at least two homework tasks will be 'flipped learning' activities in which they prepare for deeper investigation of the set topic in subsequent lessons.

### **4. MONITORING HOMEWORK SET**

- Staff are asked to set homework tasks for each of classes against the published homework timetable (see end of document) by midday on the Monday of any given week to allow students to plan and manage their time effectively. This is monitored by the Leadership team.
- Journals should record all homework set. If they have no journal, the student must produce one the next day or buy a new one.
- Parents should sign journals weekly and check that homework tasks are being done on time.
- Form tutors will check journals 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 journal checks.

### **5. MONITORING HOMEWORK COMPLETED**

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

- In the first instance the subject teacher will record and XH in both the journal and ClassCharts.
- Students accruing 3 XHs within a term will be required to attend Homework Club, three one-hour long homework catch up sessions which run the week after the third XH has been accrued. For every third XH accrued, students are expected to attend Homework Club
- Homework Club is supervised by Heads of Department who are there to assist and explain tasks, in accordance with the information on ClassCharts.

- Persistent offenders will be identified to pastoral leaders who will ring home.

## **6. '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 e.g. 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 – 9 and some in Year 10 will be required to complete two Bedrock lessons at home each week as a regular part of their English homework. 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 the pupil's English teacher has set out.

## **7. SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD AT HOME**

- We would ask you to look at your child's journal each night to find out what has been set so that you can encourage and support your child's efforts. We ask parents to check and sign the journal 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.

In some circumstances parents feel that they cannot do a great deal to help their children with their learning and indeed we don'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 which 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. Pupils should avoid using electronic devices before bedtime as this can have a negative effect on the body getting to sleep quickly.



