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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 2026**  
**Next Review: January 2028**

## 1. Introduction

At St Joseph's our mission is to **unlock the belief in all** children through the experience of the love of Christ. Homework supports this by helping students practise independence, perseverance and responsibility for their own learning.

Homework is defined as any learning activity pupils perform outside the normal school day in response to guidance from the school. It is considered an integral part of the curriculum, requiring careful planning and integration into the schemes of learning for every subject. We believe that Homework should be predictable, purposeful, doable, equitable, and linked to learning.



## 2. Rationale

The importance of regular, high-quality homework is central to student achievement. Research indicates that students who complete homework regularly achieve a whole grade more on average than those who do not, which equates to an additional year of schooling over their secondary career. Beyond academic attainment, homework helps pupils develop effective work habits, self-discipline, and independent study skills vital for lifelong learning.

## 3. Aims and Objectives

The primary objectives of setting homework are:

- Consolidation: To reinforce and embed knowledge and skills learned in the classroom.
- Preparation: To engage in "flipped learning" activities that prepare students for deeper investigation in upcoming lessons.
- Independence: To enhance skills such as planning, time management, and research.
- Feedback: To provide teachers with data on student understanding, allowing them to identify misconceptions and adjust future instruction.
- Engagement: To involve parents in their child's learning journey

## 4. Homework Time and Expectations

Each subject gives specific guidance to students regarding homework expectations. Below are the minimum general homework expectations:

- Teachers are required to set homework on **ClassCharts by 4:00 PM every Monday** for the week ahead.
- Students must record homework due date in their **journals**.
- During examination periods teachers are expected to only set purposeful **Revision homework**.

- Homework must be the product of a **student’s own independent thinking**. Students may use digital tools to support research but must critically engage with content they have researched.

Key Stage	Frequency	Duration per Task
<b>KS3 Core</b> (English, Math, Sci, RE) only	Once per week	30 minutes maximum
<b>KS3 Non-Core subjects</b>	Once per fortnight	30 minutes maximum
<b>KS4</b> (All subjects)	Once per week	30 minutes maximum
<b>KS5</b>	Flipped Learning tasks for <b>every hour of class time</b>	1 hour per hour of class

### 1 Types of homework that teachers will set

Teachers will only set tasks that will directly enhance the learning outcomes of students, this should be focused and concise and can either be:

- **Flipped Learning** for an upcoming lesson, or
- **Practice** of knowledge and skills that supports content.

### 2 Digital Platforms

Each student has a Microsoft Office 365 account through which they can access their school email, Teams and messaging. This online service is a fantastic resource for independent learning, setting, resourcing, completing and submitting homework that should be utilised by students regularly as part of their home learning.

Other digital platforms used are **Seneca**, **Mathswatch** for Maths, **Quizlet** for MFL

In the event of a student being unable to logon to any of the digital platforms that we use then they can request a password reset via their tutor/teacher.

### 3 Inclusion and Homework

To ensure homework is equitable and effective, St Joseph’s follows the principle that **tasks must be doable with reasonable outside help**.

- Teachers should make reasonable adjustments by default so **all students** can access and be challenged therefore all homework will include:
  - Task broken down into numbered steps
  - A worked example or model
  - Key vocabulary pre-taught
  - Scaffolding: including in-class explanation and modelling, scaffold on ClassCharts and “how-to” explanation videos for various learning platforms and concepts.
  - Success criteria/ lesson PowerPoint
  - Attached worksheet/homework booklet on ClassCharts

- Allow alternative evidence of completion (e.g. photo, verbal explanation checked in class)
- Departments must consider student access to learning devices, resources, and login details before assigning work.
- St Josephs fosters a supportive culture where students can **freely communicate struggles** with their teachers who are willing to help.

#### 4 Feedback

Homework should feed directly to lesson; therefore, Teachers are not expected to write comments on every homework, but Homework should be reviewed to identify misconceptions and knowledge gaps.

Design homework so it shows what students **know** (e.g. quizzes, MCQs, short answers, digital tasks), then use it in one of the following ways:

- **Starter questions** based on the homework
- **Reteaching** a common mistake
- **Quick quiz** on misconceptions
- **Modelling** strong answers
- **Automated marking**
- **Whole-class feedback**
- **Live marking**
- **Peer marking**

#### 5 Monitoring

To ensure the homework policy is effective and consistently applied, St Joseph's Catholic High School implements a multi-layered monitoring system involving staff at all levels, as well as parents.

##### Staff Monitoring Responsibilities

- **Form Tutors:** Tutors will perform regular checks of student journals, noting any concerns regarding completion or recording and informing the relevant Subject Leaders when issues arise.
- **Subject Leaders:** They are responsible for monitoring their specific subject areas to ensure that homework is being set regularly according to the policy and is meaningfully integrated into the departmental schemes of learning.
- **Homework Lead:** The Homework Lead is responsible for monitoring ClassCharts to ensure that tasks are set according to the homework policy. They will conduct regular audits, and journal checks across various year groups to ensure school-wide compliance with the policy

##### Role of Parents

Parents are vital partners in the homework process. Their role includes:

- Create the right **environment**, providing a **quiet, distraction-free workspace**.
- Monitor by checking your child's ClassCharts for homework and **signing student journal weekly** to confirm tasks are completed on time.
- Encouraging effort and testing what has been learned, while **avoiding doing the work for the child**.
- Checking the **quality** of the work your child intends to hand in

- Ensuring a healthy balance between study and leisure, including prioritizing **8 to 10 hours of sleep per night**.

## 10. Rewards

To motivate students and celebrate high-quality independent work, the school utilizes:

- Praise Point on ClassCharts, students will be awarded for **Excellent Homework**.
- Students with the most excellent homework points will be awarded **Homework Superstar of the Week** on our weekly newsletter.

## 11. Sanctions

- If homework is **not completed** or is of **unacceptable quality due to lack of effort**, an "XH" is recorded in both the student journal and ClassCharts.
- For **AI misuse** an **X for Dishonesty** and **XH** is recorded to give student the opportunity to resubmit homework
- Upon accruing **3 XHs within a half term**, students must attend a mandatory 1-hour **Homework Detention** held Monday to Wednesday, supervised by Curriculum Leaders.
- Persistent offenders will have Form Tutors contact parents directly if continued then be put on Homework report by HOY.

## 12. Recommended Reads

- The homework Conundrum by Dr Jo Castelino
- Homework with Impact: Why What You Set and How You Set It Matters by Andrew B. Jones
- EEF recommendations for effective homework  
<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework>
- <https://www.sec-ed.co.uk/content/best-practice/seven-principles-of-effective-secondary-homework>
- <https://my.chartered.college/event/dr-jo-castelino-the-homework-conundrum/>