



Homework Policy



School Mission Statement

"Our school is a community where Jesus Christ is our role model and his message the guiding principle behind all we do.

Every member of our community is responsible for creating an environment that is caring, fair and respectful of each other.

We develop our potential, celebrate our talents and go forward together in faith."

Rationale:

Following from our Mission Statement we at St Joseph's believe that homework is a means of developing the potential of our pupils. It helps to reinforce the partnership between home and school. It provides an opportunity for each pupil to consolidate their classroom based studies. It allows an opportunity for pupils to extend their understanding through more challenging tasks where appropriate. The nature of the homework set should reflect the variety of styles in which pupils learn. There is a clear difference between the academic requirements at KS3 and KS4 and this should be reflected in the nature of the homeworks set in each Key Stage. There is a great variety in the knowledge and skills required by different subjects.

Purposes

KS3

To enrich pupils learning outside the classroom environment.

To strengthen the continuity of learning between lessons.

To enable pupils to take more responsibility for their own learning.

To enhance pupils development of study skills and independence.

To enable pupils to develop a systematic approach to task and time management.

To enhance the involvement of parents/carers in their child's learning.

KS4

In addition to the above

To prepare Pupils for the requirements of GCSE examinations.

To enable pupils to prepare for Controlled Assessments.

Guidelines

1. That homework is a meaningful and appropriate activity for the pupil in question, mindful of his/her age and aptitude.
2. That a variety of tasks and activities are set as homework, including but not exclusive to; reading, written tasks, research, collection of materials for use in lessons, watching/listening to news/educational/topical programmes, discussion.
3. That the amount and nature of homework is balanced and reasonable according to each pupil's needs. The Department for Education guidelines state Year 9 - 45-90 minutes per night; Year 10& 11 1-3 hours per night - up to 6 hours at the weekend. For our pupils the number of subjects completed per night should be no more than

At Key Stage 3 2-3 subjects

At Key stage 4 2-3 subjects

4. That a piece of homework should take approximately

At Year 7 & 8 20 minutes

At Year 9 30 minutes

At Key stage 4 40 minutes

5. That a piece of homework should be set for each subject for which a pupil has two lessons or more per week. Subjects with four or more lessons should set two pieces of homework. Subjects with only one lesson should set homework as appropriate but at least every second week.
6. That a balanced homework timetable is co-ordinated by the Deputy Headteacher, in accordance with school policy. Parents to be sent information about the homework timetable at start of academic year. Teachers should set homework only on the day agreed, ensuring that it is a meaningful activity (see points 1 &2).
7. That at Key Stage 4 account should be taken of the demands on pupils due to examinations and Controlled Assessment. Individual issues should be referred to the Managers of Learning, who may issue short term moratoriums on homework if necessary.
8. That where extended projects are set, the nature of the work expected for each homework should be made explicit. The pupils should themselves be involved in this by being encouraged to produce forward plans.

9. The best place to do homework is at home and parents are asked to co-operate in providing an environment, which is conducive to study for their son/daughter. Allowance should be made where circumstances prevent this.
10. That the Student Planner acts as the means of recording homework by the pupils and that it is used in a consistent way.
11. That the Planner is the source for monitoring homework by both tutors and parents on a regular basis and is signed on a weekly basis by both.
12. That a summary of the homework to be set by departments should be available for parents to view where possible, in advance on the school website/learning platform.
13. That the grading of homework is in accordance with the Assessment for Learning Principles. That is, where possible, approximately one third teacher assessed, one third pupil assessed, one third peer assessed.
14. That the grading of and feedback of homework should be related to a pupil's progress towards their agreed target for a subject and should reflect clearly what each pupil needs to do next in order to continue in that progress.
15. That pupils are encouraged to take an active involvement and responsibility, for their homework. This includes the meeting of deadlines and the monitoring of the amount of work which they have, through the Pastoral system and their parents/carers.
16. That pupils are also encouraged to make use of revision books, websites and private reading in addition to set work where possible or if they are unclear as to the set work.

Conclusion

Homework in St. Joseph's is recognised as an integral part of school life. It assists in the development of serious attitudes to study on the part of the pupils, acts as a valuable supplement to school-based experience and seeks the active support of parents.

Each Manager of Learning is encouraged to organise after school and lunchtime homework clubs to reduce the problems caused by homework not being produced. This is also intended as a way of helping pupils who do not have access to a computer in their home.

Reviewed Sept 2015