

St Joseph's RC Middle School



Homework Policy

Date:	September 18
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Executive Headteacher – Mrs F Conley	<i>Mrs F Conley</i>
Chair of Governors – Mr T Neeson	<i>Mr T Neeson</i>

Homework Policy

St. Joseph's RC Middle School

Rationale

At St Joseph's we believe that there is value in children completing regular homework to complement their work in lessons.

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. Homework 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 ensuring there is appropriate challenge and choice for all pupils. All homework activities should be purposeful, appropriate for individual pupil needs and be related to work the pupils are doing at school.

"Well-designed homework provides multiple ways for students to engage with what they are learning. They will then be able to use the facts they acquire to be creative and solve problems in class."

Judy Willis February 2015 - The Science of Homework

Homework Objectives

- To encourage pupils to develop the practice of independent study on a regular basis.
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline.
- To encourage pupils to have self-awareness, self-confidence and initiative.
- To enable pupils to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom.
- To permit more rapid progress to be made by each individual; to promote quiet reflection on the work covered in the lesson.
- To enable class work to concentrate on those activities requiring the teacher's presence.
- To encourage pupils to investigate topics of study in depth, particularly through the use of effective follow-up questions with parents and others.
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom.
- To encourage pupils to enjoy the skills, concepts and experiences related to each subject.
- To encourage pupils to talk, discuss and research using the rich variety of resources which our community can provide.

Types of Homework

Homework can take a variety of forms, including:

- Writing tasks;
- Reading;
- Learning – for example: facts, vocabulary, spellings;
- Continuation of work begun in a lesson if it is essential that it is completed for a following lesson
- Research, learning to use resources i.e. libraries, research engines
- Drawing or design work;
- Preparing for discussions or presentations;
- On-line learning;
- Answering questions;
- Revising for tests

Responsibilities

The role of the pupil

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into their school planner.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline, dated and with titles as appropriate.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties or misunderstandings.

The role of the Form Teacher

- To see that homework is being set and recorded.
- To check that the planner is being signed by the parent.
- To note and respond to any comments written in school planners by parents.

The role of the Subject Teacher

- (The subject leader will also play a key role in monitoring the quality and standard of homework within their subject and will have an overview of when each teacher sets homework).
- The subject teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The subject teacher will:

- Set homework according to the agreed timetable.
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Ensure homework is assessed appropriately in line with school's quality assessment policy which will also include peer and self assessment.
- Provide help and support.
- Inform parents when problems arise.

The role of parents

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

- Providing a quiet place to work.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Checking and signing the school planner each week.
- Providing the school with any positive feedback and/or about any problems through either the school planner or by contacting the school directly.

Homework at St. Joseph's

An integral part of homework is the expectation that children read for at least 20 minutes each night. They are expected to record in their planner the pages read.

In addition the children will have weekly form time spellings and subject vocabulary to learn. Revision and consolidation of any aspects of school's Calculation policy for mathematics, which is on the website, is also encouraged.

For the first half of the autumn term Y5 children will not be given any specific subject homework. After this they will be given weekly English and mathematics homework.

In Y6 children will be given English, mathematics and science homework each week. As Y6 children get nearer to the national tests, which they take in May each year, it may be necessary for them to do additional homework.

Children in Y7 are expected to complete weekly English, mathematics, science, humanities and R.E. homework.

In Y8 children will be given weekly English, mathematics, science, humanities, R.E. and French homework.

The length of each subject homework will vary but an average will be 30 mins. (Y5 and 6) 45 mins. (Y7 and 8).

The form teacher will organise a homework timetable for the year in liaison with the headteacher. The homework timetable should be written in the planner for the parents to see.

A master copy of the homework timetable will be kept by the headteacher.

Teachers will give a due date for homework to be completed. If homework is not handed in without good reason i.e a note from parent in planner, the pupil will be given a warning, followed by a demerit the next time they do not hand in expected homework.

Homework Club

Homework club is after school on Wednesday from 3.20 – 4.30pm.

This Homework policy was written after consultation with governors, teachers, parents and pupils.