



B5 Homework Policy

Aim

The purpose of homework is to enhance pupil learning and therefore promote academic achievement.

In particular homework will:

- provide more time for study, allowing pupils to make more rapid academic progress;
- encourage pupils to study on their own and so develop as independent learners;
- allow parents to become involved in the education of their children.

Purpose

The reason a teacher will set a particular homework will vary but will include:

- consolidating and reinforcing skills and understanding, developed at school;
- practice – learning by doing;
- learning and memorising factual knowledge;
- extending school learning, for example through additional reading;
- managing particular demands, such as coursework assignments;
- encouraging pupils to develop the skills and motivation needed to study on their own as independent learners;
- developing research and practical skills;
- providing opportunities for private reading, study or research;
- doing work not suited to a classroom situation;
- developing self discipline.

Forms

Homework is set by teachers on Go4Schools (and SIMs during the transition across to Go4Schools) with additional detail or resources sometimes set on MS TEAMS. Students may write the outline in their books but the detail is entered online, allowing teachers to set a wider variety of homework tasks without using up lesson time describing the detail. Sometimes homework will be submitted online directly through MS TEAMS.

Homework will be set by the subject teacher. To achieve the purpose outlined above it will take a wide variety of forms

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| • written exercises/worksheets | • drawing from observation or imagination | • reports |
| • investigations | • essays | • drafting |
| • simple practical work | • reading | • research |
| • designing | • interviews | • projects |
| • coursework assignments | • model making | • practice |
| • extended projects | • using IT | • revision tasks |
| | | • review |

- Note 1) As pupils progress through the school there will be a tendency to set more homeworks of the extended type, moving more towards the forms at the end of the list above.
- 2) **Parents should be aware that homework will NOT always be a written piece of work**, but may include reading research or a simple practical task.



Timing

Homework by department from Sept 2024

At KS3 each piece of homework will be up to approx. 45mins

At KS4 each piece of homework will be for approx. 1 hour.

At KS5 students are set approximately 4 hours per subject per week

SUBJECT	KS3 no. of pieces/week	KS4 no. pieces/week
ENGLISH	2	2
MATHS	2	2
SCIENCE	2	3 for single Scientists, 2 for all others
RE	1	2
HISTORY	1	2
GEOGRAPHY	1	2
MFL	1	2
ART	1 every 2 weeks	2
MUSIC	1 every 2 weeks	2
DRAMA	1 every 2 weeks	2
PE	-	2 for GCSE
IT	1	1hr Core IT, 2 hr Computing GCSE
BUSINESS STUDIES	-	2 hour
DT	1	2 hour
HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE/CHILD DEVELOPMENT/HOSPITALITY	-	2 hour
LEARNING SUPPORT	1 (spellings)	1 extra Maths

In the Sixth Form students have independent supervised-study time in school as well as the time they should spend at home. Students should be taking responsibility for their own learning, under the guidance of their tutors, in preparation for Higher Education. Sixth form students are encouraged to work on their own and develop as independent learners. There are supervised study areas within the Sixth Form Centre for each year group.

Sixth Form Personal Development and Private Study Time

Where students complete all their work, and have further time available, staff are expected to set general reading.

The study time will depend on the course followed. However there is an expectation that:

- A-level students** will spend an additional 6 hours per week equivalent over and above class contact time.
- Vocational** students will spend an additional 12 to 15 hours over and above class contact time, in addition to time for A-levels specified above. Vocational course are based on assignments which will be worked on both within and outside specified lesson times.
- Additional/resit** GCSEs should take 2-4 hours in addition to above.



Note: Parents should note that these timings are for guidance only. While every effort will be made to set differentiated work to take the recommended time, inevitably some pupils will work more quickly than others. Parents should not be overly concerned at some variations from the stated guidelines. If parents have particular concerns that their child is doing too much or too little homework across the board, they should contact the form tutor.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs

Teachers will always try to match the homework to meet the learning needs of the pupils. Extension work can be set for the more able. Reinforcement work can be set for pupils experiencing difficulties. If a pupil is on the SEN Register, then they may have a Pupil Profile which may refer specifically to homework. For those students who require it, teachers will adapt homework tasks to set the appropriate level of accessible challenge for them. Parents should ensure that these pupils do an appropriate amount of homework and do not regularly exceed the timeframes as outlined on page 2 of this policy. Parents should contact the School's Special Need's Coordinator if they have any concerns regarding the adaptability of homework or the time taken to complete it.

Where necessary, teachers will set 'Challenge Task' homework in order to stretch pupils and help them fulfil their full potential. The focus will be on quality rather than quantity.

The Challenge Tasks provided could be:

- an extension of the core homework set to the class, with an open-ended outcome
- more challenging tasks on the same topic at graded levels
- a project type homework on the topic studied
- a project type homework on a topic chosen by pupil
- research of information on a topic from a variety of resources
- presentation made to the class
- creative writing (poetry "playlet")
- independent reading
- working with an older pupil.

When a pupil completes homework set very quickly, he/she should tackle homework at a more appropriate level. We invite parents to contact the subject teacher or the gifted and talented coordinator if they have any concerns.

The School will

- set homework of an appropriate type according to a set timetable which is published to staff, pupils and parents every September;
- ensure the work is marked in an appropriate manner;
- provide feedback to pupils on how they are doing and 'feedforward' on how to improve
- ensure homework is complete, imposing sanctions to pupils who fail to comply inline with the school's Consequences policy.

Parents

St Mary's believes that education is a partnership between home and school, and that parents have their own responsibilities. Parents are encouraged to support pupils with their homework. Such interest and support will always



enhance the child's learning. Parents are requested to:

- provide a quiet, suitable place where pupils can do their homework;
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school policy;
- take an interest in the homework, encourage pupils and praise them when work is completed;
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are using Go4Schools (SIMS in interim) to check deadlines,
- monitor progress by checking Go4Schools, exercise books and student planners, and praising good work;
- contact the school and Subject Leaders by emailing their child's class teacher via info@stmarys.net
- support the school in the imposition of appropriate sanctions.
- monitor their child's use of Go4Schools (SIMs in the interim) and MS TEAMS.

Sanctions

The sanctions for no homework or incomplete homework are clearly evident to the pupils via the school's Consequences policy which is in the student planners and on the school website. Part of the discipline of homework is to hand in the work on time according to set deadlines, so failure to produce the work will be treated as if the work was not done. The sanctions will be imposed by the subject teacher in the first instance and will include a verbal reprimand or additional work. If problems persist, parents will be informed via telephone call or email. If this fails to resolve the problem, the Subject Leader will impose sanctions such as detentions, informing parents through the student planner. If a pupil is experiencing problems in many subject areas the form tutor or Learning Coordinator will become involved. They will work with parents and the Learning Support Department to develop strategies to support the student and resolve the problem. If parents have any concerns they should take up the matter with the subject teacher through the student planner in the first instance. The form tutor should be contacted if problems persist.

Conclusion

This policy has been developed to provide clear guidelines to pupils, parents and teachers regarding homework. It should ensure that all involved in the educational process at St Mary's have the same high standards of expectation. This will create an atmosphere in which pupils can develop as independent learners to raise their standards of achievement.

Review

Governor Committee: School Education Committee

Date of review: September 2024

Next Review Date: September 2025