



St Nicholas Catholic High School

HOMEWORK POLICY 2021

Version Control

Current version	Previous version	Summary of changes made
		No changes made to 2014 Policy
		No changes made to 2018 policy
2021	2019	Ruler has now been replaced by MSTeams (various pages in the document) Section (page 8-9) for Key Stage 5 homework has been included. Diary has been replaced by student planner

Policy Impact Statement	
Policy:	
This Policy has been implemented:	
Fully	
Partially	
Occasionally	
Not at all (give reasons why)	
What revisions need to be made:	
To the Policy?	See Version Control Above
To its implementation?	

ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

1 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the school's policy on the setting, completion and monitoring of homework

2.Scope

The principles set out in this document which apply to all pupils and provides details on the school's policy on homework which all staff, students and parents should adhere.

3 Policy Statement

At St Nicholas Catholic High School we are committed to ensuring quality of education to all of our pupils, both inside and outside of the classroom. The purpose of the homework which is given is:

- to encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own;
- to raise academic standards;
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed in school.
- to sustain the involvement of parents and carers in the management of students' learning and to keep them informed about the work students are doing;
- to manage particular demands, such as preparation for GCSE controlled assessments.

4. Principles

Students must take full responsibility for their homework and should be supported by their parents/carers.

Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities, and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable, taking account of home environment and extracurricular activities of pupils, including family and cultural obligations. Homework should be a carefully planned and an integral part of course work. It should have a clear educational purpose and not be seen as an "add-on" or a dispensable extra.

Homework should be differentiated to match the needs and abilities of pupils. Homework should promote opportunities for consolidation and extension of previous work.

Homework is related to current work and where possible is stimulating and challenging.

Pupils should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set.
Homework should involve all members of each year group.

5 Types of Homework

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- consolidation exercise e.g. maths, including memorisation of tables
- practising for mastery e.g. spelling words
- revising information about a current topic
- practising words or phrases learned in a language other than English
- reading for pleasure
- essay writing

Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading
- Reading e.g. English text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit of work
- Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes

Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- writing e.g. a book review
- making or designing something e.g. an art work
- investigations e.g. science, social science
- researching e.g. history, local news
- information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet
- monitoring e.g. advertising in particular newspapers

Teachers, however, should have regard for equity issues when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged

6 Responsibilities

Senior Leadership Team

SLT link for homework must ensure that the development of homework programmes in departments is monitored and evaluated.

SLT link will take responsibility for informing parents of the whole school homework policy.

The SLT link will inform parents of:

- the principles of the homework policy

- the use of the Student Planner and MSTeams
- how best they can support their child's study
- the consequences of not completing homework.

Departments

Teachers within departments must plan, prepare and implement realistic and manageable programmes of homework within the policy issued by SLT. Accurate records of completion and non-completion of home work must be kept. Teachers will mention the completion and quality of homework when reporting to parents.

Subject Leaders should...

- ensure that the whole school policy is embedded firmly in departmental provision
- regularly monitor and review of departmental provision takes place
- ensure that teachers keep up to date records of assessment and homework completed.
- place homework tasks in schemes of learning and updated regularly as a working document.
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Subject Teachers should...

- manage the setting and completion of homework for all pupils in their classes.
- issue homework as per the school guidelines and as directed in the scheme of work
- clearly instruct pupils to carefully record the homework in planners.
- record all homework on assignment function on MSTeams to ensure that there is an accurate record for parents and students to access.
- ensure that all homework tasks which require marking are returned to students within two weeks with clear feedback on what needs to be done to be improve.
- maintain accurate records of completion and non-completion of homework
- mention the quality and completion of homework when reporting to parents.

Parents...

Parents can support their child and the work of the school by...

- providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
- negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
- checking the time spent on individual tasks.

- ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
- checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- signing the homework planner each week.
- providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

Students should...

- recognise the value of homework, and be aware of its capacity to improve learning.
- be responsible for completion of homework to the best of their ability and on time.
- carefully manage their workload to ensure that homework is as evenly spread as possible.
- seek appropriate support to ensure that they are able to complete tasks set for homework.
- record all homework tasks in their planner or acknowledge in their planner that the homework can be found on assignments within MSTeams.

7. Expectations for Homework

Each subject is expected to set the following homework amount each fortnightly cycle. A daily homework timetable has not been drawn up due to the complexities of the timetable. Instead subjects are allocated time in which homework should be completed each fortnight. Teachers will decide how this time is allocated and only in exceptional circumstances would the work be required for the following day. Teachers can create one longer homework by combining two tasks together and this will be recorded twice.

Failure to Complete Homework

A score of 8 will be placed on lesson monitor against the student.

A sanction will be issued and in most instances this will be a break or lunchtime detention, but this will depend upon the individual circumstances.

Monitoring and Evaluation

A continuous process of monitoring the effectiveness of the Homework Policy will be carried out by the Subject Leaders.

The checking of pupil diaries for the recording of homework and the placing of homework tasks on assignments on MSTeams by teachers will be checked regularly

A whole school evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy will be carried out by the SLT link. This should involve consultation with staff and a sample of parents and pupils through the annual survey cycle.

Where further good practice is identified, this will be shared across the school

Key Stage 3 Homework Proposal

Based upon homework being given for half the number of lessons attended with 30 minutes for Year 7, 35 minutes for Year 8 and 40 minutes for Year 9.

	Year 7 Lessons	Year 7 Homework	Year 8 Lessons	Year 8 Homework	Year 9 Lessons	Year 9 Homework
English	7	3 x 30mins 1 x 15mins	7	3 x 35mins	8	3 x 40mins 1 x 20mins
Maths	8	3 x 30mins 1 x 15mins	8	3 x 35mins 1 x 20mins	7	3 x 40mins
Science	7	3 x 30mins	7	3 x 35mins 1 x 20mins	7	3 x 40mins 1 x 20mins

History	3	1 x 30mins 1 x 15mins	3	1 x 35mins 1 x 20mins	3	1 x 40mins 1 x 20mins
Geography	3	1 x 30mins 1 x 15mins	3	1 x 35mins 1 x 20mins	3	1 x 40mins 1 x 20mins
RE	5	2 x 30mins	5	2 x 35mins	5	2 x 40mins
Computing	2	1 x 30mins	2	1 x 35mins	2	1 x 40mins
Languages	4	2 x 30mins	4	2 x 35mins 1 x 20 mins	5	2 x 40 mins 1 x 20 mins
Drama	2	1 x 30mins	1	1 x 35mins	1	1 x 40mins
Music	2	1 x 30mins	2	1 x 35mins	2	1 x 20mins
Art and Design	2	1 x 30mins	2	1 x 35mins	2	1 x 40mins
Technology	1	1 x 30mins	1	1 x 35mins	1	1 x 40mins
Total pieces		24 12 per week		24 12 per week		25 12.5 per week
Total Minutes		660 = 11 hrs 5.5 hrs per week		780 = 13 hrs 6.5 hrs per week		900 = 15 hrs 7.5 hrs per week

Key Stage 4 Homework Proposal

Based upon homework being given for half the number of lessons attended with 45 minutes for a longer homework and 20 minutes for a short homework.

	Year 10 Lessons	Year 10 Homework	Year 11 Lessons	Year 11 Homework
English	8	3 x 45mins 1 x 20mins	8	3 x 45mins 1 x 20mins
Maths	8	3 x 45mins	8	3 x 45mins

Science Double Award	11	5 x 45mins	11	5 x 45mins
Option Subjects	5	2 x 45mins 1 x 20mins	5	2 x 45mins 1 x 20mins
RE	5	2 x 45mins	5	2 x 45mins
Total pieces		24 12 per week		24 12 per week
Total minutes		980 = 16 hrs 8 hrs per week		980 = 16 hrs 8 hrs per week

KS5 Homework

Directed Study sessions if supervised can be a really effective tool in improving both the metacognitive learning of our Sixth Form students and departmental outcomes in conjunction with a clear and robust KS5 homework policy and expectations.

Over a 2 week timetable (up to 9 hours of teaching) all subjects will need to issue approximately **6 hours of homework**

There will be **no expectation to set** Extension Tasks

Teachers will be accountable for the setting, monitoring and completion of these homework tasks.

Departments will be given a level of autonomy in how best to set the homework's in relation to the sequencing of their curriculum. Also there needs to be a consideration with regards to classes who have more than 1 teacher and departments will need to plan who sets what and when.

Research suggests that quality of homework is crucial to improving student understanding. A focus on areas below make for effective homework.

- Knowledge development
- Practice of Skills
- Responding to feedback

Departments will be given autonomy in the 'weighting' of these three areas depending on the nature and sequencing of the curriculum.

- **2 x Content based**, students completing tasks which look to consolidate knowledge and content of classroom based learning

- **2 x Research based**, students completing reading and research looking to either prepare for future learning or research to deepen and strengthen their understanding of the curriculum
- **2x Skill based**, students completing tasks ie, past paper questions and essays linked directly to the course specification and governing body mark schemes.

Reviewed by: Student Welfare & Progress Committee	Date: 23 rd September 2021
Ratified by Governing Body	Date: 9 th December 2021
Review of Policy Due By	Date: September 2024