



St. Mary's Catholic High School

An 11 to 18 Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

Manchester Road
Astley
Tyldesley
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HOMework POLICY - DRAFT

Approved by Full Governing Body: March 2011

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name.

Next Review Date: January 2013

Staff Responsible:

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Homework: what is it for?

- Independent learning/self-discipline
- Consolidation of learning
- Research
- Preparation for lesson
- Practice learning by doing
- To help enhance the Pupil/parent/teacher partnership
- Work not suited to classroom situation

Underlying principles of homework

- Learners have an entitlement to expect homework from all subjects.
- Homework that is set is to be marked and assessed.
- Extended projects are set with guidance on completion and checkpoints to aid learners develop their time management and organisational skills.
- The school will provide a planner for the recording of all homework and deadlines.

Time spent on homework

The following times are minimum recommendations for time to be spent on homework per week:

- Years 7 & 8 - 3 hours 45 minutes
- Year 9 – 5 hours
- Years 10 & 11 – 7 hours 30 minutes

- Years 12 & 13 – 5 hours per subject taken

The role of Parents/Carers

As a parent or carer, you can help your child in the following ways:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which your child can do their homework or help them attend other places where homework can be done, such as homework club or study support centres
- Make it clear to your child that you value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress at school
- Check and sign homework planners on a weekly basis.
- Encourage your child, and praise them when they have completed homework
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.

Opportunities for completion of homework at school

Homework club takes place after school in the library Mondays to Thursdays, 3 – 4pm.

Teaching staff often allow pupils to stay behind and complete homework if this has been pre arranged, is mutually convenient and parents or carers are aware of the pupil's whereabouts. This is more common at KS4.

Homework at KS3

Homework at KS3 will provide an opportunity to extend learning beyond the classroom. Where possible, homework will be set in the form of fewer, extended projects that help learners to develop their time management, personal responsibility and transferable skills. Additionally, core subjects may also need to set more traditional, 'skills practice' type homework.

St Mary's recognises that many of our pupils balance school life with a rich mix of extra curricular activities. Therefore, longer deadlines should be set to allow pupils to manage their time and complete homework around their other commitments.

Faculties may co-ordinate or combine homework projects where appropriate.

Where projects are not appropriate, homework will be set on an average of one every three lessons per subject. These homeworks should take between 30 to 45 minutes each to complete.

Students have an entitlement that homework set is assessed. Homework may also be used as part of the school assessment process, may count as an assessed piece of evidence and may contribute to end of year grades.

Types of homework at KS3

ICT

View online software tutorials to prepare skills for use in class.

Research the use of sensors in real life situations and design a robot to perform a household task (6 week project).

In groups, research the use of technology in the supermarket and prepare a learning showcase to be shown to the class (6 week project).

Design Technology

Research the use of packaging in everyday products e.g. a box of cornflakes. Design a package for a new range of chocolates/perfume/aftershave to be sold in Boots/Thornton's this Christmas/Mother's day.

The use of mechanisms can create interesting effects in everyday products e.g. children's pop up books. Using a simple card mechanism design a page for a children's book. You could work in groups to design a small book.

Investigate the work of the architect Norman Foster. Can you make a model for an outdoor dining area at St Mary's taking influence from his work?

English

When Great Expectations was written living conditions were very different from today. You are to design a PowerPoint presentation showing what conditions were like in nineteenth century England.

You are a magazine designer. You have been asked to write a proposal for a new magazine for teenagers. For this project you must include: the front cover; 1 article that would interest the reader and a suitable advert that will appeal to your target audience.

Research the use of presentational devices in film posters. How do they appeal to the audience? What do they reveal about the film?

Homework at 14 to 19

At KS4 & 5, it is vital that homework is used as a tool for developing and challenging the learning skills required throughout life whether academically or in the work place.

- Homework will consolidate, develop and review skills that have been learned during lesson time.
- Homework tasks can be used to prepare class for future learning. (eg/ research based projects.)
- Homework is to be set every other lesson at KS4. Each homework piece should take at least 30 minutes.
- Homework does not necessarily have to be stand alone tasks. The teacher can use project based tasks to suit their particular group (e.g. an assignment set over 3 homework slots - total time 90 minutes).
- Some subjects may set homework tasks that are completed in school in the form of a controlled assessment. This may take place as a scheduled period 6 in the school day
- Homework will be marked using exam specification criteria for targets, comments and levels.

