



ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL, NEWRY

Homework Policy

Revised November 2024

Rationale:

Homework is an integral part of effective learning and assessment, it consolidates work which has been undertaken in class and helps to reinforce and extend pupils' knowledge and understanding. Homework encourages pupils to think and learn independently, developing important self-management skills.

Aims:

Teachers in St Mary's set homework on a regular basis to:

- reinforce and assess learning
- extend and consolidate work undertaken in class
- help prepare students for future lessons and assessments
- to help identify areas for improvement
- encourage independent learning
- develop research skills (including materials and information not available in the classroom)
- develop literacy, numeracy and digital skills
- develop important skills such as research, essay writing, note taking
- undertake research to complete GCSE controlled assessments
- complete coursework
- revise for tests and examinations
- develop self-management skills and self organisation
- allow parents to become involved in their daughter's work
- help to develop the home/school partnership

Organisation:

Pupils are encouraged to make effective use of their diary to record homework tasks. Parents are asked to sign the diary and to use it to communicate with subject and Form Teachers. Teachers may also use the diary to communicate with parents. Form Teachers monitor the diaries on a weekly basis and award Achievement Points for well-kept diaries. Year Tutors at set times throughout the year monitor a sample of diaries from each Form Class.

Homework Activities:

In St Mary's homework may involve a range of activities including writing tasks, learning, reading, research or practical work.

Written

Essays;
Poems;
Projects;
Comprehension;
Completing classwork.
Performing calculations
Coursework

Reading

For pleasure;
For practice;
For study;
To gain knowledge

Learning

Subject content;
Poetry;
Language;
Vocabulary;
Facts;
Spellings.

Research

Investigation;
Collecting and compiling information;
Online research
Preparing speeches;
Conducting interviews;
Viewing television;
Preparing for Controlled Assessments

Practical

Improving artistic skills;
Improving Music techniques;
Practising for role play;
Digital learning
Online Homework.
Improving pronunciation
Design ideas for T&D
Participation in sport outside school

Role of Parents:

- provide a suitable, quiet place where homework can be completed
- support their daughter and the school by checking that homework is completed and that presentation is to the highest possible standard
- when appropriate, praise the standard of their daughter's homework
- help when possible e.g. with reading, listening to vocabulary learning
- encourage their daughter to spend sufficient time revising for all examinations
- sign the diary each week and use it to communicate with Subject and Form Teachers, particularly if any difficulties or challenges arise through the completion of homework

Role of Pupils:

- bring their homework diary to school everyday
- record all homework set by teachers into the diary
- complete all homework – written, learning, reading, research, practical work
- attempt all homework to the best of their ability
- submit homework and coursework on the day it is due
- follow the presentation guidelines code
- inform their teacher of any difficulties they had in completing their homework
- complete all teacher corrections
- be aware of the consequences of not completing their homework

Role of Subject Teacher

- set homework that is appropriate to the ability of the pupils and reinforces and extends their learning
- ensure that pupils understand the nature of the homework and approaches to its successful completion
- give time in class for pupils to record the homework in their diary
- mark homework regularly and positively, giving constructive feedback on how pupils can advance/develop their learning/performance
- use homework as part of the assessment of pupil's understanding
- encourage self-management by giving achievement points and other awards for good work
- monitor and record non-completion of homework and issue behaviour points for unsatisfactory homework/coursework
- comment on the standard of homework in the written reports and at PTM
- communicate with partner school in relation to the completion of homework for collaboration students

Role of Heads of Department

- Promote standardised practice across their department with regards to the setting and assessment of homework tasks.
- ensure all department members set a range of quality homeworks, monitored through department meetings and the collegial book monitoring process.
- monitor the quality of homework given by department members as an effective assessment for learning strategy.
- Consult with colleagues to devise a subject specific homework policy

Role of Form Teachers

- Remind students of the importance of having their homework diary with them everyday.
- Check and sign planners weekly to ensure homework is being recorded and parents are also signing the planners.
- Monitor the comments made by class teachers regarding homework

- Implement the appropriate procedures for non-completion of homework when this is occurring across several subjects
- Liaise with parents for persistent non-completion of homework.
- Inform Head of Year of any concerns.

Role of Year Heads

- Consult with the form teacher and class teacher to monitor student's failure to complete homework.
- Ensure that homework is part of the agenda at pastoral meetings.
- Monitor the signing of planners by both parents and form teachers.
- Communicate and meet with parents/carers of students who persistently fail to complete homework.
- Promote the importance of homework during weekly assemblies.

Senior Leadership Team, SLT

The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the implementation of the homework policy at whole-school level. It is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team to:

- Inform parents/carers of the school homework policy via a range of appropriate media.
- To lead the implementation of the homework policy
- Ensure that homework is part of the agenda at Head of Department meetings.
- To provide students with an appropriately designed homework diary
- Support the development of homework programmes through the appropriate provision of relevant resources.
- Monitor, evaluate and review the homework policy
- Ensure the consistent and effective implementation of the homework policy across all departments.
- Collect, collate and evaluate feedback on homework from all key stakeholders
- Encourage and disseminate good practice.

Associated Whole School Policies:

This policy is set within the broader school context of the Curriculum and as such should be implemented in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Curriculum Policy
- Learning and Teaching Policy
- Assessment Policy
- SEN Policy
- Literacy Policy
- Numeracy Policy
- ICT Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Examinations Policy
- Controlled Assessment Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Parental Engagement Policy
- Inclusion Policy

All policies are available from the school website www.stmarysnewry.com.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review:

Mr. Fitzpatrick, Vice Principal and Heads of Department are responsible for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing the implementation of Homework. This is achieved through:

- Collegial book monitoring
- Department meetings
- Classroom observations including PRSD
- Departmental and Senior Leadership Meetings

Signed by Chair of Governors: _____

Date: _____

Signed by Principal: _____

Date: _____

Date of Review: ___November 2027_____