

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL



HOMEWORK POLICY

Drafted: June 2025

Approved by Committee:

Next review:

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Chair of Governors

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of learning in secondary schools in the UK for several key reasons:

1. Reinforcement of Learning

Homework helps students consolidate what they've learned in class. By practising skills and applying knowledge at home, they strengthen their understanding and improve long-term retention.

2. Development of Independent Learning

It encourages students to take responsibility for their learning. Completing homework independently helps them develop self-discipline, time management, and organisational skills—all of which are vital for further education and the workplace.

3. Preparation for Exams

Homework provides regular opportunities to practise exam-style questions and revise material, which helps prepare students for GCSE and A-Level assessments.

4. Progress Monitoring

Homework gives teachers insight into each student's progress.

5. Parental Involvement

Homework allows parents to see what their children are learning and support them in their studies, helping to build a stronger home-school connection.

In short, when planned and used effectively, homework in secondary schools is a valuable tool that supports learning, builds essential life skills, and prepares students for future success.

Research has shown that the setting of homework for Secondary School students is a benefit to their learning. However, there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how homework is set is likely to be very important.

1. Homework has a positive impact on average (+ 5 months), particularly with pupils in secondary schools.

2. Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective.

3. It is important to make the purpose of homework clear to pupils (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area).

Effective Homework

- **Purpose:** All homework assignments are meaningful, and students must also understand the purpose of the assignment and why it is important in the context of their academic experience.
- **Efficiency:** Homework should not take a disproportionate amount of time and needs to involve some hard thinking.
- **Ownership:** Students who feel connected to the content learn more and are more motivated.
- **Competence:** Students should feel competent in completing homework and so we need to abandon the one-size-fits-all model. Homework that students cannot do without help is not good homework.
- **Inspiring:** A well-considered and clearly designed resource and task impacts positively upon student motivation.

Specific policy:

Type of homework that teachers will set:

Teachers will only set tasks that will directly enhance the learning outcomes of students:

- Revision
- Retrieval
- Consolidation
- Reading

Type of homework that teachers won't set:

- 'Catch up' work from lesson content that has not been delivered
- Low impact homework tasks including crosswords or gap fills
- Homework that is too easy or too difficult

Homework setting practice

- Teachers will set homework on TEAMS and this will be published via Edulink
- Teachers **must** give one week for students to complete their homework task. This allows students to manage their time effectively, avoiding stress.

	Year 7-9	Year 10-11	Year 12-13
4 lesson subjects English, Maths, Science	One homework task per week, not exceeding 1 hour per homework.	Students are set one homework task per subject per week. Each homework should be no more than 1.5 hours per task.	Students are set 5 hours per subject per week.
3 lesson subjects: History, Geography, MFL, RE	One homework task per fortnight, not exceeding 1 hour per homework.		
Practical Subjects: IT, PE, Art, Design & Tech, Drama, Music	One homework task per half term.		
Approximate hours per week	6 hours per week	8-12 hours per week	20 hours per week

Homework during exams /mocks

Teachers will not set homework for students during exam/mocks. Students will be expected to revise for their exams/mocks.

Homework during holidays

Teachers will not set homework for students over holidays. Students will be expected to revise for their forthcoming assessments.

Marking of homework

Because homework is designed to enhance skills and knowledge, the results of effective homework should be evident in the summative assessments. There is no expectation that homework will be marked or checked in a particular way. Teachers can opt to choose a digital platform for homework where work is automatically marked. Teachers may choose to monitor homework by providing verbal feedback. Homework does not need to be kept in the student's exercise book.

Homework in Sixth Form

Sixth Form students should expect to receive more homework than they did lower down the school. It is vital that habits of completing homework and regular independent study are ingrained early on.

Students need to be completing a **minimum of 5 hours independent study tasks per subject each week**. It is important that teachers provide clear advice and guidance on what sort of activities you should complete during your independent study. Please use the following principles to support in this:

- Teachers should give time indications for how long students should spend on each piece of work.
- There should be a task which is linked to assessment and developing exam skills. There should be an opportunity for students to consolidate their learning from the lesson and practice their revision skills.
- Tasks should be set to ensure students have a chance to develop their super curricular reading skills as this is essential to help students get As & A*s and supports in the writing of their personal statements.
- Teachers should consider setting a pre reading/ flipped learning task if appropriate to help students prepare for their upcoming lessons.
- Teachers should state specifically what activities students should complete in supervised study time to support the students in managing their time.
- Teachers should make sure that homework assignments are set on Teams so that the sixth form team can hold students to account when in supervised study and free periods.