



# ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

READING • BERKSHIRE

## Homework Policy

### Aims

Homework checks that pupils have understood the work being covered in class and helps develop the skills of organisation, independent learning and personal exploration. Expectations for pupils and information for parents are clearly set out at the start of the school year and at the various Section Information Evenings.

Regular homework will also help pupils fulfil their potential by:

- Developing good work habits and study skills
- Developing a self-disciplined and self-motivating approach to study
- Practising and reinforcing skills learned in the classroom
- Consolidating and extending work begun with teachers in the classroom
- Making greater use of materials and sources of information which may not be available in the classroom

### Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers, parents and pupils all share responsibility in ensuring that homework is completed successfully.

#### Teachers

- Ensure that pupils have full details of their homework written neatly in their planners
- Pupils have all the information they need to do the homework
- Homework is set regularly, on the day fixed in the homework timetable
- Homework is marked in such a way that the pupil understands what they have to do to continue to make progress

#### Parents

- Ensure the pupil has a quiet place to work
- Help pupil to manage their time and complete work to the best of their ability
- Check planner and sign as appropriate

#### Pupil

- Write full details of their homework in their planner
- Make sure they have all the information and equipment required
- Do the homework to the very best of their ability
- Find out about any homework they have missed and catch up if they are absent



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## Homework in the Prep School

In Early Years and Reception, teachers send a weekly newsletter to parents which includes practical ideas or activities to do at home with their children to support the learning that has taken place that week.

Together with their parent or guardian, pupils in Early Years and Reception are expected to embed a routine of regularly sharing individual reading and school library books. Reception pupils are also given weekly lists of regular and irregular high frequency words to support development of reading fluency and accurate spelling.

In Year 1, the weekly spelling test is introduced and tested on the same day every week. Maths homework supports and consolidates the concepts taught in the week. Written homework may be based on the English classwork, or be linked to another subject. Pupils are expected to read regularly at home to progress through the reading scheme.

Year 2 pupils are expected to read for 15 minutes per night, learn their weekly spellings and complete one piece of subject specific homework per week.

Pupils in year 3 - 6 are expected to read for 15 minutes per night, complete unfinished class work as requested by the teacher as well as learning their weekly spellings. Homework timetables are provided on the school website which details the subject specific homework which is set each night.

## Homework Timetables - Year 3 to 11

All year groups between Year 3 and 11 have a homework timetable. The number of homework and recommended time to be spent on each subject will vary according to the particular year group. Copies of these timetables are found in the Parent Portal, accessed via the College website.

## Guidelines for Homework - Year 7 and above

To help pupils to complete their homework a set of guidelines are contained within the Student Planner. Form Tutors will regularly refer to these to help pupils who are experiencing difficulty with homework.

How should I do my homework?

- Find a tidy place to work; a messy desk equals a messy mind
- Turn off the TV. Some people work better with music, some don't
- Use your planner, so you know when to expect homework
- Organise your time, don't leave everything to the last-minute
- Do certain tasks over a couple of nights. Learn for your maths test on Monday, then test yourself on Tuesday
- Don't start too late
- Make the most of local resources – school library, internet etc
- Reward yourself for working hard



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## **Planners - Years 7 to 8**

Parents are expected to sign the planners on a weekly basis for all pupils in Years 7-8 as confirmation that homework has been completed. In the first month of Year 7, pupils should spend no more than 30 minutes on a piece of homework as pupils and parents acclimatise to the new homework expectations at St Joseph's. Parents are encouraged to sign at the end of a piece of work if pupils have not completed the work set in the allocated time to inform the subject teacher.

## **Academic Detention – Year 7 to 13**

In order to promote good work habits, after a pupil has failed to meet homework deadlines on two occasions for any subject, they will be given a homework catch-up or academic support detention by the subject teacher. This will be completed with the member of staff at lunchtime or after school. An email will be sent to parents giving advance notice of the detention. Repeated failure to complete homework will result in an Academic Detention.

## **Non Examined Assessment – Year 10 to 13**

NEAs are part of some GCSE and A Level courses and is an important aspect of Year 10 to 13 homework for those subjects. At the Information Evenings in September, parents and pupils are given advice on how to cope with the demands of NEAs.