



ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE  
READING • BERKSHIRE

# Home Learning Policy

<b>Policy Owner</b>  AH (Teaching & Learning)	<b>Associated documents</b>  	<b>Legal Framework</b>  
<b>Review by</b>  SLT	<b>Review frequency</b>  At least every 3 years	<b>Next Reviewed date</b>  September 2028



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## Home Learning Policy

### Aims

At St Joseph's we refer to homework as *home learning*. Whilst the distinction is subtle, our focus is on reinforcing classroom learning through both set tasks and regular retrieval practice. We subscribe to the principle that "*retrieval from day one, ensures that revision is done.*"

Home learning is an integral part of ensuring pupil progress at St Joseph's. It provides opportunities for pupils to:

- engage in retrieval practice of knowledge and skills;
- undertake deliberate practice to build fluency;
- develop life-long independent study habits.

This approach is supported by research from the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF), which finds that home learning has, on average, a positive impact of +5 months, particularly in secondary schools.

The research also highlights that:

- home learning linked directly to classroom content is more effective;
- home learning accompanied by feedback has the greatest impact, and
- making the purpose of each task clear to pupils (e.g. revising a specific area of knowledge or developing fluency in a skill) significantly enhances its effectiveness.

### Roles and Responsibilities

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

#### Teachers

- Home learning tasks should not be open ended.
- Home learning should not be set over several weeks.
- Home learning should not be to finish classwork.
- Home learning should allow opportunities for retrieval practice.
- Home learning should build upon and provide opportunities for pupils to practice previously taught material.
- Home learning which involves either reading or research should have clearly defined outcomes.
- Home learning must be set on the day shown in the timetable. If pupils are out on this day (on a trip for example) home learning should not be set unless it is a regular and expected retrieval practice on an online platform such as Sparx and pupils have capacity to complete it in a timely manner.
- Home learning must be written in the pupil's planner and set as an assignment on Teams. Tutors are to regularly check and sign planners at KS3.



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

## Home Learning 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 home learning supports and consolidates the concepts taught in the week. Written home learning 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 home learning per week.

Pupils in year 3 - 6 are expected to read for 20 minutes per night, and learn their weekly spellings.

## Home Learning Timetables - Year 7 to 9

Pupils in Years 7 – 9 have a home learning timetable. Copies of these timetables are found in the Parent Portal, accessed via the College website.



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## **Guidelines for Home Learning - Year 7 and above**

To help pupils to complete their home learning a set of guidelines are contained within the Student Planner. Form Tutors will regularly refer to these to help pupils who are having trouble with home learning.

How should I do my home learning?

- 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 home learning
- 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 as appropriate – school library, internet etc

## **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 home learning has been completed. In the first month of Year 7, pupils should spend no more than 30 minutes on a piece of home learning as pupils and parents acclimatise to the new home learning 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.

## **Independent Study at Key Stage 5**

Independent study is a core component of successful learning in the Sixth Form. Set home learning tasks provide structured opportunities, while additional reading and research extend pupils' understanding beyond the classroom. Engaging with wider reading and research is essential for developing deeper knowledge and preparing for academic success.

While teachers will set reading and research tasks, pupils are also expected to be self-directed learners who take responsibility for their own progress.

Until the final examination has been sat, the work of a Sixth Form pupil is never complete. There is always retrieval, research, and reading to be undertaken.

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

To promote good work habits, after a pupil has failed to meet home learning deadlines on two occasions for any subject, they will be given a home learning 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 home learning will result in an Academic Detention.