



St Nicholas Middle School Homework Policy

Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education". -1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Aims

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Expectations:

Homework will be published using Google Classroom and pupils should respond using this format. Where children prefer to work on paper, they should take a picture of their work and add it to their homework assignment in their Google Classroom.

Where children are unable to access the homework online, books will be provided and homework printed off for them.

When, how much and by whom?

Year 5

All children are expected to be reading at home - independently, or with support - at least three times per week for a minimum of 20 minutes. This should be logged in their Home-School Planner.
Spellings will be set once per week on a Friday. These will be tested on the following Friday.
English and Maths homework will be set once per week (normally on a Friday) These will be due by the following Wednesday.
French vocabulary homework will be set once per unit (normally half-termly) Humanities and Science homework will set once per unit (normally half-termly) Due dates for these will be set in the instructions for the task.

Year 6

All children are expected to be reading at home - independently, or with support - at least three times per week for a minimum of 20 minutes. This should be logged in their Home-School Planner.
Spellings will be set once per week on a Friday. These will be tested on the following Friday.
English and Maths homework will be set once per week (normally on a Friday) These will be due by the following Wednesday.
French vocabulary homework will be set once per unit (normally half-termly) Humanities and Science homework will set once per unit (normally half-termly) Due dates for these will be set in the instructions for the task.

Year 7

All children are expected to be reading at home - independently, or with support - at least three times per week for a minimum of 20 minutes. This should be logged in their Home-School Planner.
Spellings will be set once per week on a Monday. These will be tested on a Friday.
English and Maths homework will be set once per week (normally on a Friday) These will be due by the following Wednesday.
French vocabulary homework will be set once per unit (normally half-termly) Humanities and Science homework will set once per unit (normally half-termly) Due dates for these will be set in the instructions for the task.

Sanctions

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the student's needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used.

1. Class teacher - discussion and negotiation with student, **imposition**, informing parents via diary, opportunity to complete by next day.
2. Head of Year - discussion and negotiation with referred student, **imposition**, informing parents by diary. Letter to parents if necessary.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Credits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home.

Responsibilities

The role of the pupils

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the parents / Carers

- To ensure children complete homework by deadline
- To support school in ensuring children complete homework
- To provide help and support
- To liaise with teacher if there are any concerns / issues

Role of the Teachers

The teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken. The teacher will:

- Set homework according to the timetable, **publishing tasks on Google Classroom (and printing off where necessary).**
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework promptly **on Google cAssroom and in books.**
- Provide help and support.
- Inform Head of Year / Parents, as appropriate, when problems arise.