



St Gregory the Great Catholic School

Homework Policy

“opera in caritate”

based upon St Gregory’s statement “The proof of works are in love”

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.

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: When, how much and by whom?

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 student planner.
2. Head of Department - discussion and negotiation with referred student, imposition, informing parents by student planner. Letter to parents and detention if necessary.
3. Tutors - through weekly monitoring of planners, identifying students with homework problems across several curriculum areas and refers to Head of Year. Head of Year discusses and negotiates with student, applies sanction or support where appropriate.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Achievement points may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a department letter or postcard may be sent home.

Responsibilities

The role of the student

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the student planner.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor

1. To ensure that the homework timetable is written in student planners
2. To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
3. To see that homework is being set and recorded in planners.
4. To check that the student planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
5. To note and respond to any comments written in planners by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher

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

1. Set homework according to the homework timetable.
2. All homework to be recorded on **ShowMyHomework**
2. Provide the stimulus.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met (Teachers should allow a reasonable amount of time for the homework to be done – minimum of three days).
5. Mark and return all homework promptly.
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Head of Department, Tutor and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.

Status and review cycle: annual

Next review date: June 2019