



The John Fisher School

Homework Policy

Responsible: Governors' SLAW Committee

Next Review Date: January 2019

Nurturing young Catholic gentlemen
Aspiring for Academic, Cultural & Sporting Excellence

1 Rationale

Homework has a positive effect on pupils' attainment and achievement because:

- ☐ it provides pupils with further opportunities and time to acquire knowledge and extend their understanding in school subjects;
- ☐ it helps pupils to develop the important skills of independent study and the self-discipline of working without immediate control;
- ☐ it teaches pupils that school is not the only place for learning;

- ☐ it has the potential to involve parents constructively in the learning process;

- ☐ it encourages pupils to make use of local libraries, the Internet and the local environment to further their learning.
- ☐ it encourages good habits of time management

- ☐ we should consider the value of homework is more in the process and the learning habits than the actual task

2 Forms and tasks

The learning function of homework is *"to generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences to those provided in school"*. (HMI)

Homework should allow our pupils the opportunity to work on a range of tasks such as:

- ☐ Continue the work of the classroom
- ☐ Consolidation of learning, and revision
- ☐ Reading - either personal choice or directed
- ☐ Making things
- ☐ Creative work (Audio/video)
- ☐ Projects
- ☐ Research
- ☐ Preparation of future work through investigation
- ☐ Using ICT
- ☐ Drafting
- ☐ Oral practice (e.g. interviewing)
- ☐ Enrichment and extension

2.1 Guidance for staff

In January 2015, The John Fisher School introduced 'Show My Homework', a program embedded on the school website which allows pupils and their parents to access homework tasks on any computer at any time. This also allows pupils to plan their time and organise their homework routines.

This is a vehicle to communicate all homework with pupils and parents efficiently and effectively. We expect all teachers to make full use of this resource and it is to become the focal point of our homework.

The link to the John Fisher 'Show My Homework' is:

<https://thejohnfisher.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar>

- ☒ Homework need not be dominated by extended writing activities. Our pupils should be given opportunities to work and learn in a variety of ways.
- ☒ When "Projects" are set, there must be a clear expectation communicated as to the required content, length and organisation. Progress of the "Project" should be monitored at frequent intervals. Weekly checks will be put in place.
- ☒ Homework should be set in good time before the end of the lesson so that the pupils have time to record it in their Journals. At this time staff should explain precisely what is required and give guidance about where additional information/resources may be acquired. All teachers will ensure that homework is recorded in journals.
- ☒ Homework tasks should be differentiated so that they are related to the ability of all the pupils in a class. Some pupils will require help in writing their homework correctly into the journal.
- ☒ Pupils should be provided with sufficient materials and/or information successfully to complete the task.
- ☒ Homework must have a purpose behind it. This should have been determined in advance of the lesson. It should not be set simply to fulfil the requirement for homework. Similarly, finishing off classwork is not seen as a suitable task when it leaves the most able pupils with little to do at home and the weakest to work with no support.

2.2 Recording

The school will provide all pupils with a Journal in which to record, among other things, the homework that has been set.

2.3 Setting homework

- ☒ Homework will be set according to the homework timetable.
- ☒ Tasks will be relevant and appropriate for all pupils.
- ☒ Staff will expect work of a high quality and demand the best of each student.
- ☒ Tasks should be as specific as possible with staff indicating the amount of time to be devoted to them and deadline dates for completion.
- ☒ Staff should indicate to pupils the assessment criteria to be used when work is graded.
- ☒ Staff should ensure that tasks are recorded in the Journals and take appropriate action to follow up pupils who are not working conscientiously.

- ☒ When teachers are absent they should provide, with their lesson details, any homework that is to be set. Where this may not be possible, in the case of prolonged sickness, the Subject Leader should make provision.
- ☒ Pupils should be given a detention for failing to submit homework.

2.4 Monitoring

- ☒ Form Tutors should make regular checks of the Journal to ensure homework is being set. Parents and Form Tutor should sign the Journal weekly.
- ☒ Subject teachers should ensure that homework is being correctly recorded.
- ☒ Subject Leaders should monitor pupils' books to ensure that the policy is being followed and that appropriate tasks are being set.
- ☒ The Senior Leadership Team should monitor the policy by examining Journals and asking to see pupils' work.

2.5 Marking

- ☒ All homework marking MUST conform to the AFL technique of one (or two) item of What Went Well, and one item of Even Better If...
- ☒ Homework should be marked punctually and regularly according to the Department's policy. This policy will reflect the 'Whole School Assessment Policy'.
- ☒ Marking should contain feedback to pupils on their performance in relation to their strengths and weaknesses.
- ☒ Pupils should be given a clear understanding of each Department's marking policy, which, in itself, will reflect the Whole School Policy.

2.6 Workload

- ☒ All subjects will set one or two homework tasks per week.
- ☒ Pupils in Years 7 & 8 should be given approximately 30 minutes per subject
- ☒ Pupils in Year 9 should be given up to 45 minutes per subject

- ☐ Pupils in Years 10 & 11 should be given approximately one hour per subject
- ☐ Sixth Form students should expect to do 15 hours per week.

☐ Parents should write to staff if their son has found the workload too heavy on any particular evening.

2.7 Homework Timetables

- ☐ Timetables will be produced by Heads of Year in consultation with Departments.

☒ Timetables should be produced and published in the first week of term.

2.8 General

☒ This policy should be communicated to all pupils at the beginning of each Academic Year by the relevant Head of Year.

☒ The policy should be included in the Staff Handbook and, in abbreviated form, in the Prospectus.

☒ The information in this policy must be communicated to our parents. Where necessary they should be informed about how they can help their children.

☒ Pupils who have learning difficulties may receive assistance with their homework at the 'Study Club'. This should be arranged through the SENCO.

☒ All pupils should be encouraged to attend Homework Club.

Structure (from Sept 2012 for Key Stage 3)

☒ Each Department will organise Major and Minor homework tasks. The Major tasks will apply to all pupils and will be set by each teacher.

☒ In a 12 week term, there will be 6 Major tasks, which will be publicised to parents in advance at the start of term. These tasks will be typical homework tasks as indicated above.

☒ In Maths and Science, there will be adaptations to suit setting and class rotations.

☒ Teachers will set Minor tasks according to their own teaching and these will be open to be flexible. They may include revising vocabulary, or may include tasks such as finish class work, design a poster, etc.

☒ All Major tasks will be marked as outlined above.

☒ Each teacher will be responsible for providing adequate differentiation for MAPs and SEN pupils within this structure.