

ST. BEDE'S CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY



HOMEWORK POLICY

We commit ourselves to love, respect and serve one another as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Homework Policy

Following DCSF guidance, homework is defined as:

“any work or activities which students are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents”.

The Purposes of Homework Activities

- To encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own;
- To consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school;
- To extend school learning to engage and inspire students;
- To allow students to practise their study skills in new contexts so they can retain knowledge and know how they learn best;
- To opportunities for personalised learning where the task given is specific to students' individual learning needs;
- To develop and sustain the involvement of parents in the management of students' learning and keep them informed about the work students are doing;
- To exploit resources for learning of all kinds at home;
- To emphasise to students that study and learning are that can go beyond school.
- To help students manage demands of courses, eg coursework;
- To ensure students recognise the links between good study habits and higher standards of achievement.

Types of activity suitable for Homework

Reading, Follow up classwork, Developing classwork, Researching, Preparation for lessons, Independent work, Organising activities, Working on problems, Coursework and projects, Learning, Collecting, Constructing, Writing, Watching and Listening, Interviewing, Recording work on tapes, Revision.

Special Educational Needs

In setting homework for students with special needs teachers are encouraged to balance the right of students to share fully in the work of the class with their individual learning needs. These needs may include consolidation and reinforcement of specific skills.

Pupil Premium

The Academy is committed to ensuring no student, when asked to do homework, is disadvantaged by lack of access to resources. The Academy will provide access to all resources necessary to complete a given homework.

Procedures

All departments have their individual homework policies and procedures aligned with the overall school policy, including practical suggestions about the work to be set, offering clear guidance on how staff should set and mark homework and on procedures to be followed when homework is not done. Schemes of work provide details of homework opportunities and guidelines on possible homework activities. All deadlines should be clearly stated by the teachers.

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A homework timetable is produced annually indicating which subject is to set homework on which night. The total amount of nightly homework time set for each year group is agreed by the Leadership Team annually and is checked to make sure it conforms with DCSF guidelines:

- In Years 7 and 8 45 – 90 minutes
- In Year 9 1 – 2 hours
- In Years 10 and 11 1.5 – 2.5 hours

Homework should not normally be set for the following day unless appropriate. Students should record set homework in their Organisers. Reports to parents will include a comment on students' attitude and diligence in completing homework tasks. Homework details should be published on the school web site. Subject Teachers are responsible for ensuring this record is accurate.

Feedback for pupils

Effective marking and feedback are fundamental to helping students make progress. Teachers should check homework on a regular basis.

A variety of methods are used to correct/improve homework: eg by the teacher; as a class activity including discussion; Peer/self assessment; students will be invited to make a written response to teachers' advice and guidance.

Monitoring

Homework should be checked regularly in students' Organisers by Form Tutors and House Leaders. Subject Teachers should ensure that homework is recorded in student organisers.

Subject teachers will mark homework on a regular basis and keep a record in the teachers' mark book. Curriculum Leaders should monitor homework in accordance with the clearly stated and recorded department policy.

Evaluation

Homework Policies and procedures should form an item on department meeting agendas during the academic year. The key criterion for evaluation is the contribution which department homeworks are making to students' progress.

The overall working of the Homework Policy is evaluated by SLT on a regular basis.

The Role of Parents in the Procedure

Parents are encouraged to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful place for doing homework;
- Make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in showing how it can help them make progress;
- Expect their children to meet deadlines and check that they are;
- Give praise for the completion of homework
- Check student Organisers to ensure they are being filled in correctly.