

Homework Policy



St. Paul's Community College is a state school run by the Education Training Board of Ireland (ETBI). Our school is run under the ethos of the ETB and the core values underpinning its characteristic spirit. St Paul's is a state, co-educational, multid denominational school underpinned by the core values of the Ethos of excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect.

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1. Introduction

St. Paul's Community College aims to be a centre of excellence in education where students are expected to achieve their full potential in all aspects of their educational and personal development.

2. Rationale

- This Homework Policy gives a practical expression to the school's mission of enabling students "to achieve their full potential".
- The process of creating a Homework Policy provides the opportunity to reflect upon and implement best practice in relation to homework and study.
- Homework is an integral and important aspect of a student's education and as such requires a clear set of expectations and procedures.

3. The purpose of homework

- It consolidates and reinforces skills and understanding developed at school.
- It encourages students to develop the skills, confidence, self-discipline and motivation needed to study effectively on their own.
- It extends school learning, for example through additional reading.
- It sustains the involvement of parents in the management of students' learning and keeping them informed about the work students are doing.
- It directs research. Skills necessary for classroom-based assessment, state examinations, etc.

From the beginning of First Year each student is expected to establish a homework routine. Each student is expected to keep a record of all homework in their Journal, which is given by the school to the students specifically for this purpose. Journals are regularly monitored by

teachers and are available to all teachers should they wish to communicate with parents. All homework should be completed and organized as guided by the subject teacher and should be dated. This assists with revision. A class teacher will communicate initially through the journal if a student fails to present written assignments.

4. The amount of homework appropriate for student's of different ages:

The intrinsic value of homework activities is far more important than the precise amount of time devoted to them. Best practice suggests that the amount of time that should be spent on average, by Second level students, on homework should fall within the following ranges:

- First Year 1 - 1 ½ hours
- Second Year 1 ½ - 2 hours
- Third Year 2 - 3 hours
- Transition Year varies depending of project work and activities
- Fifth Year 3 - 3 ½ hours
- Sixth Year 4 hours minimum.
- Weekend study and revision is also essential.

The amount of time are guidelines only and subject to the needs and circumstances of each student/family. Teachers and parents need to consider the varying abilities of students when setting homework or when inspecting homework. Homework is not limited to written work but also includes study, revision and reflection tasks set to be done at home by the teacher or through self-directed learning by the student.

5. The responsibility/expectations of the Student

- Full participation in the school's academic programme requires the satisfactory completion of all homework assignments set at the discretion of the subject teachers.
 - All students must undertake to complete all homework to the best of their abilities in a neat and tidy fashion
 - The student is responsible for recording homework in the Student Journal
 - If a student has been absent due to a school activity or otherwise, the onus is on the student to discover what work has been set and to endeavour to complete it within the time given in as far as is possible.
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- Students should study for the recommended period for their year group
 - Students should provide a note if homework is not done or is incomplete
 - It is important for students to realise that study is not limited to homework, but should also include revision, exam preparation and self-directed learning.
 - **All students should spend time at home on their studies whether or not work has been assigned.** If no homework has been set then students have an obligation
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to go over material they have recently studied in class to make sure that they have fully understood it.

6. The role of parents/guardians in supporting pupils

As partners in their children's education with the school, parents are expected to take an active interest in their study.

Supervision of homework:

- Support their child in setting aside time each day for homework
- Provide adequate supervision as appropriate to the needs of the student
- Ensure that the homework component is complete to the best of the student's ability
- Ensure that their children find out their homework if they missed class for any reason
- Check that their children review class work and engage in frequent revision
- Ensure that the student plans sports and social activity around

study time Provision of space and facilities:

- Provide adequate facilities to enable their children to undertake study, i.e. space, light, heat, ventilation, freedom from noise and other interference such as television, radio, music, mobile phones and other electronic devices requiring "screen" time
- Provide work materials and ongoing support as

needed Communication with teacher:

- Assist teachers to monitor homework by checking journals regularly
- Furnish an explanatory note in the event that homework is incomplete or not done. It is the parents' responsibility to inform the school or class teacher of any reasons why a student was unable to complete a homework assignment.
- Communicate with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework or your child's approach to homework
- Parents should regularly check VS Ware to monitor their child's progress in the school's points system which will indicate any homework behaviour points given by the teacher

7. The responsibility of the teacher

Good practice in relation to giving homework would include the following:

- Homework should be assigned to students based upon reasonable expectations
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- Teachers should give regular homework, cognisant of the particular subject department policy on homework. A rough time guide is suggested for each year group. Each subject Department will develop guidelines on homework within that department.
 - Teachers should give clear instructions re homework and time to record homework
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- Teachers are mindful in setting homework of spacing large scale assignments such as essays and projects.
- Homework should be appropriate to the student's ability
- Homework should be purposeful and meaningful to the work of the class.
- Homework is not limited to written work but may also includes study, revision and reflection tasks through self-directed learning by the student

Good practice in relation to correcting homework would include the following

- Teachers should check/correct homework as soon as practicable
- It is recommended, when making written corrections of a student's written work, that the corrected work be initialed and dated
- Teachers should acknowledge in some way consistent completion of homework. It is important to give feedback to direct and encourage improvement and learning.
- Students can be involved in correcting their own homework under direction from the teacher, as this can be a good learning experience.
- Teachers should apply sanctions consistently across the school for incomplete homework. The record of same should be recorded on VSWare and/or record of same in the student's journal.

Sanctions for a student's failure to present or complete homework.

- Enter demerits (points) in VS Ware. It is good practice for each teacher to keep a record of same in their own teacher's diary.
- In class discipline administered by teacher (example: extra written work for a single offence, in class detention for repeat offences).
- Liaise with Tutor, Year Head and Parents/Guardians on students' progress.
- For persistent offences, a discipline sheet outlining the number of offences, their dates and actions taken by class teacher can be completed and passed to the relevant Year Head for further sanctions, such as Detention and/or meeting with parents/guardians.

8. Monitoring, Review and Evaluation

This policy will be implemented by the Board of Management.

This policy will be monitored on an ongoing basis and reviewed and amended as the need arises.

Ratification

Ratified by the Board of Management on _____

Chairperson of the Board of Management

Date