



St Joseph's CBS

Homework Policy

2026/2027

Rationale

Homework is an integral part of teaching and learning. It should support holistic education, promote student wellbeing, and foster independent, responsible learners. This policy is informed by student and teacher survey data and reflects the shared commitment of the school community to meaningful, balanced, and purposeful homework practices.

Scope

This policy applies to St Joseph's CBS community, including students, parent's /guardians, teachers and all subject areas throughout the academic year. It aims to establish the school's position on homework and act as a guide for students and parents.

Relationship to our Mission Statement

St Joseph's CBS is a Catholic School under the trusteeship of ERST which:

- Promotes Christian values in a caring and safe environment
- Provides a curriculum which caters for all students
- Challenges students to reach their full potential by means of a balanced approach to work and leisure
- Promotes respect for oneself, for others and for the environment
- Promotes a sense of pride in the school by encouraging staff, students and parents to participate in relevant school activities

Through meaningful homework, we aim to develop independent learners who take responsibility for their education and achieve their full potential in line with our core values.

Aims of Homework

Through implementation of this policy, we hope to achieve the following:

- Continue to improve student engagement with homework & thereby improve the quality of homework being submitted
- Strengthen the value that students/parents place on homework as an integral part of learning
- Encourage students to be responsible for their learning.
- Inform parents/guardians of student progress and encourage partnership between home & school in supporting student learning

- Develop effective study habits and time management skills that will benefit students throughout their educational journey
- Provide appropriate feedback to students that reinforces learning and identifies areas for improvement

Homework Principles

Homework assigned in this school will be:

- **Purposeful:** Clearly linked to learning intentions, assessments, or skill development
- **Balanced:** Mindful of students' overall workload and wellbeing
- **Inclusive:** Differentiated where possible to meet diverse learning needs
- **Clear:** Instructions and expectations explicitly explained
- **Manageable:** Designed to be completed within a reasonable timeframe
- **Meaningful:** Focused on learning rather than volume

Students with Additional Educational Needs

In setting homework for students with additional learning needs, teachers will endeavour to balance the right of students to share fully in the work of the class, including homework, with their individual learning needs. Teachers will differentiate homework where appropriate to support and accommodate students with additional needs.

Duration of Homework

Time Guidelines (Approximate)

- **Junior Cycle:** Up to 1.5–2 hours per evening across all subjects
- **Senior Cycle:** Up to 2.5–3 hours per evening across all subjects

These guidelines represent total homework time across all subjects. Students should be encouraged to create a homework timetable to manage their workload effectively. During examination periods, additional time may be required for revision.

Types of Homework

Preparation and engagement with homework enables students to develop independent learning and to take responsibility for some of their own learning. The nature of homework assigned will vary between year groups, class groups, and topics of study. Homework is an integral part of our formative assessment practices.

Homework may include:

- Written answers
- Summarising & note taking
- Re-learning content covered in class
- Projects & assignments
- Oral & aural work
- Diary & portfolio work
- Revision and practice tasks - Exam-style questions –
- Digital tasks including online quizzes, discussion boards or collaborative document

- Reflection and self-assessment
- Creative tasks such as composition or design
- Skill building & problem solving in relation in relation to art
- Preparation for upcoming lessons

This list is not exhaustive

Digital Homework Guidelines

As digital platforms become increasingly important in education, please note that

- All digital homework will be assigned through the official school platform – Microsoft TEAMS
- Students should check TEAMS daily for assignments
- Technical difficulties should be reported promptly to teachers
- The school's Acceptable Use Policy applies to all homework activities
- Support may be provided to students who have limited access to technology at home
- Students are expected to use AI tools responsibly and ethically
- AI should support understanding (e.g. explaining concepts, planning) and not replace original student work

Roles and Responsibilities

1. School Management

- Support & monitor the implementation of the homework policy
- Emphasise the importance of homework as an integral part of school life
- Provide necessary resources & support for effective homework practices

2. Teachers

- Differentiate homework appropriate to students' abilities & academic requirements.
- Ensure instructions relating to homework are clear to all students, written on the board before the end of the class & posted on TEAMS where appropriate and at the teacher discretion.
- Allow sufficient time for students to write homework into their journal.
- Set suitable standards for presentation of homework.
- Correct homework and provide feedback within a reasonable timeframe.
- Record minimum effort/incomplete homework in both the teachers own diary and the student journal as outlined in the Code of behaviour.
- Class teachers and/or Class tutors / Year Heads check journals regularly to ensure homework is being recorded & completed.

3. Students

- Record all homework in journal correctly during class time and check TEAMS daily.
- Understand what is required to complete the homework before leaving the classroom. Seek clarity where necessary.

- Have all necessary books and equipment to complete homework set.
- Develop good work habits in terms of organisation and presentation of homework.
- Get a note signed from a parent/guardian if homework is not completed on time in the student journal.
- Discuss with the teacher if there are any difficulties experienced in completing homework.
- Make sure that homework is their own original work and not copied from another student.
- Plan study time effectively to meet all homework deadlines.
- Use digital platforms responsibly and appropriately when completing online homework.
- If a student is absent from class for extracurricular or other school related activities, the responsibility is on the student to complete the homework assigned.
- Students should make themselves aware of the procedures for non-completion of homework.

4. Parents/Guardians

- Encourage and support students to spend sufficient time on homework and revision each night.
- Ensure students have an appropriate setting to complete homework.
- Encourage students to complete homework at an appropriate time each evening.
- Prioritise homework over other activities as appropriate.
- Monitor homework, check/sign the students journal regularly.
- Provide teachers with a note of explanation for incomplete or failure to complete homework.
- Maintain awareness of homework requirements through school communication channels & parent-teacher meetings.

Procedures for Non- Completion of Homework

Each case for non-presentation of homework will be assessed on an individual basis by the subject teacher. Students who do not complete assigned homework will initially be addressed by the subject teacher using their own class procedures, interventions may include but are not limited to:

- Verbal reminder & guidance.
- Note in student journal to be signed by parent/guardian.
- Lunchtime detention as required.
- Contact with parent/guardian by subject teacher.

When these interventions have been exhausted & noncompletion of homework persists:

- Referral to the relevant Year Head
- Additional measures in accordance with the school's Code of Behaviour.

Homework During Absences

When a student is absent due to illness or other legitimate reasons;

- Students should contact their teachers directly via TEAMS or check TEAMS to determine what homework was assigned.
- For extended absences, parents/guardians may request homework assignments through the Year Head.
- Upon return to school, students should meet with teachers to establish a reasonable timeline for completing any missed work.
- Teachers will provide appropriate support to help students catch up on missed material.

When a student is absent due to extracurricular activities:

- Students should message their teachers or check TEAMS to determine what homework was assigned.
- Students should present to the next scheduled class with all relevant homework completed.

Review

This policy will be reviewed regularly, incorporating ongoing feedback from students, staff, and parents, to ensure it continues to support effective learning and wellbeing

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management

Signed: Don O'Brien
(Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Date: 18th June 2026

Signed: Karen O'Donnell
(Principal)

Date: 18th June 2026