



HOMEWORK POLICY

For St. James' School

Date: August 2011
Annual Review
Next Review: August 2012

ST JAMES' SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or with the assistance of parents or guardians. It is the School's regular homework is set for all pupils across the various Key Stages of Learning.

The Purpose of Homework:

- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self discipline to work on their own. This is acknowledged to be an essential skill for adult life.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To complete work done in the classroom.
- To give pupils the opportunity to use other resources and materials that are not always available in the classroom.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To provide opportunities for long-term research.
- To assess the level of understanding of the work covered in class, highlighting any particular areas of difficulty.
- The nature of homework will vary between year groups, different classes and areas of study. Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment. We aim to return marked homework to pupils as soon as possible, for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the information is still fresh in the pupil's mind.

Homework may take any of the following forms:

Learning notes and diagrams.

Writing essays.

Practice in mathematical and scientific problems.

Completion of classwork.

Project work.

Analytical /creative / descriptive writing.

Learning for tests.

Devising, designing, problem solving.

Watching a TV programme.

Observing and recording.

Making a model to exemplify an item of work.

Organisation of Homework:

- Each pupil is issued with a homework diary at the beginning of the academic year together with a homework timetable.
- Subject teachers will inform pupils as to when homework is due.
- Staff will ensure that instructions regarding homework are clear and that all pupils have adequate opportunity to copy homework down before the end of the lesson.

- For pupils with particular special educational needs, staff may be required to write homework in the diary to ensure that parents / guardians are aware of what has to be completed.
- Homework will be marked regularly to ensure that profitable feedback is given to each pupil.

Pupils who find it difficult to manage their homework time at home are encouraged to attend homework club, which is available in both the Preparatory and Senior schools.

Parental role in Homework:

- Parents / Guardians should support pupils with their homework, but accept that their role will become less and less important as pupils become more responsible and independent.
- Parents/ Guardians should make reasonable provision for pupils to work at home.
- Parents /Guardians should encourage pupils to meet homework deadlines.
- If Parents / Guardians feel that insufficient or too much homework is being given, they should contact the Head of Prep or Senior School who will investigate the situation.

Pupil's Responsibilities:

- Pupils should have their homework diaries with them at every lesson.
- Pupils should record their homework as directed by the subject teacher.
- Pupils have a responsibility to meet the deadlines set for homework.
- If Pupils are absent they need to find out what work has been missed and catch it up. In the case of Preparatory pupils and younger children in the Senior School, the once is on the teacher to ensure that the pupil is aware of the work that has been missed.
- **Being away on the day that homework is set, is not an excuse for not doing it.**
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, pupils should enlist the help of staff if needed.

Time Allocation for Homework:

Year 3:	one subject per evening of 20 minutes + recommended 10 minutes daily reading practice.
Year 4:	one subject per evening of 25 minutes + recommended 10 minutes daily reading practice.
Year 5:	one subject per evening of 30 minutes + recommended 10 minutes daily reading practice.
Year 6:	one subject per evening of 30 minutes + recommended 10 minutes daily reading practice.
Year 7:	Three subjects per evening of 30 minutes per subject.
Year 8:	Three subjects per evening of 30 minutes per subject.
Year 9:	Three subjects per evening of 30 minutes per subject
Year 10/11:	Three subjects per evening of up to an hour per subject.
Year 12/13:	As required