



St Patrick's Catholic College - Home Learning Policy

What is home learning?

Home learning is any learning or activity which learners are asked to do outside of lesson time either on their own or with parents or carers.

Why do we set home learning?

We aim to set appropriate and regular home learning for the following reasons:

- To encourage learners to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work independently – enhancing St PATS Learning skills
- To develop, practise and consolidate key skills and understanding including self discipline and time management
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading
- To enable learners to devote time to extended tasks such as coursework or project work
- To ensure learners revise effectively for and fulfil their full potential in examinations and tests
- To support the home-school relationship

We recognise the importance of family time and extra-curricular activities and home learning set should not prevent learners from enjoying this time. We do believe however that, 'appropriate and regular home learning contributes very well to learning overall' (Ofsted 2012).

Learners between the ages of 5-16 spend approximately 15% of their lives in school. It is therefore vital that home learning, with the support of parents/carers and families takes place. Where home learning is valued, discussed and encouraged, learners will benefit and increase their knowledge and skills at a faster pace. We believe that a well managed home learning programme sets up children as lifelong learners and prepares them for their future.

How much home learning should learners receive?

As we work on a two week timetable, we have set our home learning expectations in line with this. Home learning can be completed after school on the night received or on another night allocated by the learner to allow completion to meet the deadline. Home learning can also be completed at weekends. The tables following clarify our expectations for learners and guidelines for staff.



KS3

Year group	Number of hours per fortnight	Subject expectations for pieces of work	Broken down across the two weeks
7 & 8	10	2 x Maths, 2 x English, 2 x Science, 2 x RE and 1 piece from other subjects. Maths and English can take up to 45 minutes per piece. Other subjects can take up to 30 minutes.	Approx 45 minutes per day
9	15	2 x Maths, 2 x English, 2 x Science, 2 x RE and 1 piece from other subjects. Maths and English can take up to 60 minutes per piece. Other subjects can take up to 45 minutes.	Approximately 60 minutes per day

KS4

Year group	Number of hours per fortnight	Subject expectations for pieces of work	Broken down across the two weeks
10	20	Within the fortnight, learners can expect: Maths –2.5 hrs English –2.5 hrs Science –2 hrs (unless triple – see option)) RE – 2.5hrs Core PE – 0.5hrs Option subjects up to 2.5hrs each	Approx 1.5 hrs per day
11	25	Within the fortnight, learners can expect: Maths –3 hrs English –3 hrs Science –2.5 hrs (unless triple – see option) RE – 3 hrs Core PE – 0.5hrs Option subjects up to 3 hrs each	Approx 2 hours per day



Examples of home learning tasks

Home learning might include things such as:

1. Writing assignments
2. Mathematical exercises
3. Learning assignments (e.g. spellings, key words and facts)
4. Exam practise
5. Preparation for oral presentations or class discussion
6. Reading/researching in preparation for a lesson
7. Finding out information/researching a project
8. Creative tasks
9. Exercises to apply and review learning in the lesson
10. Revision for exams and tests
11. Redrafting written work to improve it
12. Doing 'corrections'

How will home learning be set and checked?

St Patrick's have invested in an online learning platform called Show My Home Work (SMHW). This system requires teachers to upload the home learning on to the site for pupils and parents to access a personalised calendar and to access the resources. In the initial stages, all learners will still have a planner in which to record their home learning. Eventually the use of the planner will be phased out. Home learning will still be set and explained during lesson time. Tutors are asked to share the home learning calendar on SMHW with their pupils on a regular basis to embed its use. Teachers collect in home learning on the due date (giving a minimum of 2 days for completion). Some home learning can be submitted directly via SMHW. Home learning will be marked according to our whole school marking principles and can be assessed in a variety of ways. Learners will be rewarded for quality home learning.

What happens if a learner fails to complete home learning?

St Patrick's Catholic College places great value on home learning. When home learning has not been completed, this will be noted via SMHW. Teachers should use their own classroom management to deal with this. If a learner fails to hand in 3 pieces of home learning, parents/carers should be informed by letter. Should the situation fail to improve, parents/carers will be invited in to school to discuss the situation with a Head of Key stage or Head of Faculty or member of SLT.



Classroom teachers take responsibility for learners' non-completion of home learning and an appropriate punishment will be issued. This will usually be a detention during which learners will be expected to complete the work. Heads of Faculty/Department may also become involved when home learning is not completed on more than 2 occasions.

Responsibilities regarding home learning

School should

- Set appropriate home learning that challenges learners and mark it and provide feedback regularly, carefully planning home learning opportunities as lessons are planned
- Ensure sufficient time is allocated for completion of home learning
- Monitor the completion of home learning and be aware of any issues. The rewards system will be used to acknowledge home learning achievements
- Check planners on a weekly basis (tutors) and reward learners who are using their planner correctly (until planners are phased out)
- Ensure the monitoring of home learning by the department/faculty Head
- Ensure that Senior Leaders and Heads of Faculty/Department carry out monitoring and work scrutiny to verify home learning setting and marking
- Ensure that pupils who may struggle to access SMHW are provided with a paper copy of the homework
- Provide opportunities for home learning to be completed on site
- Provide tips for parents in supporting their child with their home learning

Parents and Carers should

- Provide a suitable environment for home learning completion, or encourage learners to make use of the SPARC after school
- Encourage independence in learners when completing home learning
- Contact their child's tutor if any issues arise with home learning
- Encourage and praise learners for completing and making an effort with home learning
- Ensure school planners & SMHW are checked regularly



Learners should

- Always carry their planner(until they are phased out)
- Record home learning set and the date it is due in their planner
- Manage their time to ensure home learning tasks are completed – check their own SMHW calendar
- Accept that deadlines must be met
- Ask a parent/carer to write an explanatory note or e-mail their teacher if home learning cannot be completed
- If absent, find out what work is missed and catch up
- Solve problems with home learning before the deadline – if necessary finding the class teacher to request support
- Take pride in doing their best, acknowledging the highest personal standard expected
- Produce their own work and mark it clearly as home learning in their books, following presentation expectations

How this policy was created

This policy was created in consultation with parents, carers, learners, teaching staff and governors. All parents were invited to complete a questionnaire and give their opinions on the way forward with home learning. We have acted upon this valuable information. Staff and governors were consulted via teaching and learning working parties and pupils also completed a questionnaire and some were interviewed. Current practice in 'Outstanding' schools was also identified and incorporated. The policy is due for renewal in February 2017.