



# HOME LEARNING POLICY

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**‘Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God...’**

**Matthew 6.33**

## 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.

All home learning that is set should be meaningful and contribute to the understanding of the content that is being covered as part of a subject’s curriculum. Home learning should always be given knowing that it gives students the opportunity to help increase their content knowledge and understanding.

## 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.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To enable learners to devote time to extended tasks such as coursework or project work.

## The amount of home learning

The school does not have a fixed home learning timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. This is to ensure that the home learning that is issued is of good quality. Research has shown that students respond positively to home learning that is relevant to the learning in the classroom and where they can see the benefits in completing the work. However, students will need to learn to manage their time so that they are completing home learning to a high standard and are meeting the deadlines that have been set.

As a rough guide the amount of homework that can be expected is:

KS3 Year 7-8 up to 30-60 minutes per day.

KS4 Year 9-11 up to 60-90 minutes per day.

The amount of time students are expected to spend on the home learning will increase as they progress through the school.



## How often will home learning be set?

The amount of home learning that is issued to students will be decided by individual departments within the school. Subject and senior leaders will monitor the regularity in which home learning is issued as well as ensuring the tasks are of good quality and aid student progress.

## How home learning is set

St Patrick's have invested in an online programme called Show My Homework (SMHW). This requires teachers to upload the home learning on to the website for pupils and parents to access. All instructions, resources and information needed will be available to see once it has been set.

## How parents and students access the programme

*Show my Homework* is available to download as an app on all mobile devices. As a result of this, it makes it very easy to see what home learning has been set and when it is due to be completed. All parents will also be issued with a username and password that links to their child's account. This can be done at any point throughout a school year. This has proven to be a very popular tool with parents as it makes it very easy to check what home learning needs to be completed by a particular date.

## What happens if a student 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 recorded on SMHW for student, teacher and parents to see. Teachers will use their own classroom management to deal with this. Sanctions that will be issued to students who fail to complete their home learning on time will include:

- Lunch time detentions;
- After school detentions;
- Phone calls home, highlighting the importance of completing home learning;
- Students being placed on report for repeatedly failing to complete home learning;

Should the situation not improve, parents/carers will be invited into school to discuss the situation with a Learning Leader, Head of Department or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

## Under Review

This policy will be being reviewed throughout the academic year 2017/18 as the school looks closely at the role that home learning plays in the overall learning of our students and consultation is undertaken with parents, students and teachers regarding this important aspect of school life. An updated policy will be presented to Directors in the summer term for ratification.