



CARDINAL  
NEWMAN  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# Homework Policy

Dated: July 2020

Review: July 2021

## Teacher Standards and Guidance

Teaching Standard 4 which is to 'Plan and teach well-structured lessons' states that all teachers are expected to:

*'set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired'*

Research reflects that homework can be a valuable tool in supporting progress and outcomes. The Education Endowment Foundation Jan 2018 found:

*'Evidence also suggests that how homework relates to learning during normal school time is important. In the most effective examples homework was an integral part of learning, rather than an add-on'*

### Purpose

This policy sets out to share with all stakeholders the purpose of homework at CNCS. The policy supports and reflects the school's teaching and learning ethos and is designed to give students, parents and teachers the necessary support, guidance and knowledge needed to be effective and successful. Homework is an integral part of teaching and learning and **NOT** an 'add-on' and is designed to:

- 1. Consolidate the learning taking place in the classroom ensuring that students build on prior knowledge enabling success in future lessons.**
- 2. Prepare students for the rigour of effective preparation for external exams so they achieved the highest possible outcomes.**
- 3. Facilitate the experience of working independently and develop a sense of responsibility for students' own learning.**
- 4. Ensure that home learning is manageable so that students and their families are not overwhelmed and teacher's workload is not onerous.**

### **When will homework be issued?**

Homework will be issued by staff during lessons. Homework will be issued in line with an annually published homework timetable (available via the school website). Homework will be recorded by staff on Class Charts and students are also expected to record the homework in their planner.

The preference is that all homework will be completed online which is either self, peer or teacher marked. The expectation is for staff to keep a homework record of all online homework completed in the back of the students exercise books. Where it is not possible to set homework online, staff are expected to issue a paper copy of all the resources needed to access the homework set to students and also share these on Class Charts. Where homework is issued online, any students without access to a computer, can complete the homework either in school or be provided with a laptop to complete the work at home.

### **Frequency of homework.**

The school recommends that staff set homework giving students approximately one week or more to complete it, including a weekend wherever possible. This will allow enough time for parents to see what the student's homework is, to check what the students are doing and to support their child in ensuring that the quality of the homework is good or better. Homework should be manageable for students, parents and staff.

**In Key Stage 3** homework will be set weekly by English, Maths, Science and RE, fortnightly by History, Geography, Spanish, French and Technology; and set in a 3 week cycle in ART, Drama, Music and Computer Science. *(Year 7 Drama 1 piece of Hwk every 4 weeks, Year 8 Music 1 piece of Hwk every 4 weeks)*

**In Key Stage 4** homework will be set weekly by English, Maths, Science and RE, and fortnightly by all other subjects.

**In Key Stage 5** all subjects will set weekly.

### **Recommended time a student should spend on homework per subject in any one week:**

Year 7 = 20 mins

Year 8 = 25 mins

Year 9 = 30 mins

Year 10 = 40 mins

Year 11 = 45 mins

Year 12 = 5 hours

Year 13 = 5 hours

### **How can students and parents access homework online**

Homework is published online (from September 2018) via [www.Classcharts.com](http://www.Classcharts.com). All pupils, parents and staff can access this via the Class Charts Apps (Apps exist for all three stakeholders). This system allows parents to easily monitor the homework that is being set on a regular basis.

### **How will homework be monitored and assessed?**

Homework should be set in the lesson. It should be clearly labelled as homework and, where necessary, stuck into the student's book by the student. Homework will either be peer or self-assessed with a green pen by the student. Staff should acknowledge the students' homework with a positive comment, a positive homework stamp or sticker. Where examples of exemplary homework are seen staff should use the department or school Praise and Reward Policy to acknowledge this.

This will form part of the marking policy and the quality of the homework set and completed will be monitored through departmental and whole school work scrutiny.

### **If a student fails to complete the homework set**

Failure to complete homework will result in the student receiving a **HL1 sanction** which will be a **50 minute** detention after school on a Thursday. Students will register in the designated detention classroom and be collected by the subject area for which they failed to complete the homework in.

During lessons where homework was due and not submitted students will write in green pen in their exercise book 'HOMEWORK NOT COMPLETE', or staff may choose to use their Department "HOMEWORK NOT DONE" stamp. Students will then complete a settler activity while the rest of the group are and self/peer assessing the homework.

A teacher will inform the student that they have received a HL1 (50-minute detention on the next Thursday from 3.10 to 4.00) and record this in Class Charts. A text home to parents/carers will be sent to alert parents/carers to the detention and this information will also be available on their Class Charts App.

All students must have planners out and open on their desk at the start of every lesson. A student's planner will also be stamped with the "HOMEWORK NOT DONE" stamp (or written in if no stamp available) to ensure both the student and parents/carers are fully aware that a HL1 sanction has been received by the student. During the home learning detention, the student will complete a different piece of work to further consolidate the learning that has taken place in school.

All HL1 sanctions must be recorded by staff before 3.30 on a Wednesday in order to receive a 50 minute HL1 detention on the Thursday of the same week. **Students that do not attend the 50 minute HL1 detention will lose break and lunch time the following day.** It is the responsibility of the departments to keep a record of who has not turned up and use intervention strategies to improve homework completion.

### **Rewards for Good Homework**

It is vitally important that homework is acknowledge, monitored and rewarded as part of the school's culture of recognising and praising success. Therefore staff may choose to use any of the following examples to reward and praise good homework.

- ✓ Positive written and verbal comments from the teachers on the student's homework or a stamp or a sticker in their book.
- ✓ Praise postcards sent home routinely – staff should make sure that this is a regular action for each department.
- ✓ Weekly rewards for students who do not receive any homework fails. Two students from each year group who have not received any homework sanctions will be randomly chosen to receive a reward such as entry to the start of the dinner queue for a week or a treat such as a cake, chocolate or sweets.
- ✓ Each department may have an individual reward for good homework such as a well done certificate or letter home.
- ✓ Photographs/copies of work are taken/made and published around school or on social media.

### **Homework Club**

After school there is a Homework Club in the school's library where all students are welcome to complete any type of homework, staff are available to support students with any work. This is particularly useful for students who do not have a computer at home or access to the internet at home.

## **Student Support Centre (SSC)**

The Student Support Centre offers additional support for students on the SEND register who have barriers to their learning. All staff need to be mindful of these barriers and set differentiated homework to support these students. The SSC is open before and after school and also at social times, break and lunchtime.

### **What does effective homework look like?**

Teaching Standard 4 - *'set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired'*

What effective homework looks like	What ineffective homework looks like
<p>Homework should CONSOLIDATE and EXTEND what happens in the classroom and <u>should not</u> be new learning.</p> <p>Homework should be able to be completed at home by the students without support, other than the resources provided by the teacher - <u>Any form of research is not a valid homework.</u></p> <p>Homework should stretch and challenge - Students should have to focus on the homework and it extends their learning.</p> <p>There may be occasions in subjects such as MFL whereby HWK is oracy based where the students are asked to learn key terms – in such cases the homework set will be task driven such as 'look, cover, check', then write a sentence using the word/term. This homework can then be self/peer assessed in class.</p> <p>Where homework has been set with self-assessed software such as Hegarty Maths, Seneca - Students exercise book should record the % success of the student and dated.</p> <p>Homework should motivate, inspire and reassure a student about their ability to be successful learners.</p> <p>Homework is purposeful - Students and parents clearly see its purpose and it's link to improved outcomes.</p>	<p>Students have to teach themselves new content - Students should not be asked to practice/learn something that they have not yet mastered in class.</p> <p>Research required - Students may struggle with this when they have no access to a computer/internet at home. Some students have to depend on the support of an adult to complete the homework which is not always available. Valuable learning time is wasted on researching new knowledge.</p> <p>Homework that requires no focus – Students can do the homework without really paying attention and with little effort.</p> <p>Revise/learn for a test – work is not task driven. A Student may choose not to do the set homework and do the test without any practice. Students should be given task driven activities to support them with their revision which can then be self/peer assessed in class.</p> <p>Homework is all self assessed via a software tool – Students do not have the opportunity to do any handwritten work to practice and consolidate the knowledge and skills they will be expected to have to be successful in assessments/external exams.</p> <p>Homework is the same type/style throughout the year – Students find this not engaging and will put little effort into the homework</p> <p>Homework which is an 'add on' and not planned into the learning, it is set for the sake of setting homework – Students and often parents see no point to the homework when is it not consolidating what is taught in lessons.</p>

## Homework Fail Protocols 2020-2021

### Essentials:

- Planners are used in every lesson and tutor time
- Homework is set on ClassCharts, recorded in student planner and a year/subject overview is provided
- Homework is well planned, appropriate and allows pupils to make progress in their learning

### By Teachers/HOD:

