



St. John Henry Newman Catholic School

Home Learning Policy

2025 – 2026

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. Home learning 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 home learning be issued?

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

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

Frequency of home learning

The school recommends that staff set home learning 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 work is, to check what the students are doing and to support their child in ensuring that the quality of the home learning is good or better. Home learning should be manageable for students, parents and staff.

Home learning Frequency

Key Stage 3 (Y7-9)

Home learning will be set

- Weekly by: English, Maths, Science and RE
- Fortnightly by: History, Geography, Spanish, French and Technology - 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 (Y10-11)

Home learning will be set

- Weekly by: English, Maths, Science and RE - Fortnightly by: all other subjects.

In Key Stage 5 all subjects will set weekly.

Recommended time a student should spend on home learning 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 home learning online

Home learning is published online via 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 home learning that is being set on a regular basis.

How will home learning be monitored and assessed?

Home learning should be set in the lesson. Students to complete a home learning record at the back of their exercise books. Staff should acknowledge exemplary home learning performance using the department or school Praise and Reward Policy to acknowledge this e.g postcards for Home learning champions.

If a student fails to complete the home learning set

Failure to complete home learning will result in the student receiving a **HL sanction** which will be a **50minute** detention after school on a Thursday. Students will register in the designated detention computer classroom and be supported by Heads of Departments or TLR holders within subjects with completing their home learning in the subject areas which they have avoided to complete the homework in.

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.

During the home learning detention, the student will complete the missed homework with access to computers to support and consolidate the learning that has been missed. Students also have the opportunity to use this time to complete future home learning assignments once work has been completed.

All HL 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 HL 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 home learning completion.

Rewards for Good Home learning

It is vitally important that home learning is acknowledged, 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.

Praise postcards for 'Home Learning Champions' 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 home learning fails. Two students from each year group who have not received any home learning 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 home learning such as a well-done certificate or letter home.

Home learning champions to be rewarded in End of term assemblies e.g certificates

Photographs/copies of work are taken/made and published around school or on social media.

Home learning Club

After school there is a Home learning Club in BO01 where all students are welcome to complete any type of home learning, 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 home learning to support these students. The SSC is open before and after school and also at social times, break and lunchtime.

What does effective home learning 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 home learning looks like	What ineffective home learning looks like
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Home learning should CONSOLIDATE and EXTEND what happens in the classroom and <u>should not</u> be new learning. Home learning should be able to be completed at home by the students without support, other than the resources provided by the teacher Home learning should stretch and challenge - Students should have to focus on the homework and it extends their learning. 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 home learning set will be task driven such as ‘look, cover, check’, then write a sentence using the word/term. This home learning can then be self/peer assessed in class. Where home learning has been set with self-assessed software such as Hegarty Maths, Educake, Seneca - Students exercise book should record the % success of the student and dated. Home learning should motivate, inspire and reassure a student about their ability to be successful learners. Home learning is purposeful - Students and parents clearly see its purpose and it’s link to improved outcomes.	Students have to teach themselves new content - Students should not be asked to practice/learn something that they have not yet mastered in class. 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. Home learning that requires no focus – Students can do the homework without really paying attention and with little effort. Revise/learn for a test – work is not task driven. A Student may choose not to do the set home learning 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. Home learning which is an ‘add on’ and not planned into the learning, it is set for the sake of setting work – Students and often parents see no point to the home learning when is it not consolidating what is taught in lessons.
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P16 Home learning Frequency, amount and type of home learning

Home learning must reflect the hours taught, for example 2 hours of teaching would need 2 hours of home learning set.

Teachers will set a rich variety of home learning tasks which reflect the nature of the subject and the types of assessment used in their examinations. Particular emphasis must be placed upon the regular use of examination-based questions for students to work on.

How to excellence in independent study

Strategies:

- **Models/Exemplars (where appropriate)**
- **Writing scaffolds (where appropriate)**

- **Guided/Structured response sheets (where appropriate)**
- **Embedded success criteria**
- **Provide extension or challenge tasks to stretch our HA and Most Able students – explicit differentiation and praise opportunity**
- **Additional support through learning resources/relevant links/information sources**

- **All home learning must be structured, specific and purposeful – independent enquiry must be linked to a question**

Teachers will take responsibility for the setting, marking, recording and reporting of home learning. They will address any concerns about production of work directly with the student and take appropriate action to ensure that work is completed to the best of the student's ability. Should issues such as the late or nonproduction of home learning or sub-standard work persist, teachers and the HOD/HOY will work together to agree on a plan of action which the HOY will address with the student and, where necessary, the parents.

Persistent failure to complete home learning may result in compulsory attendance at scheduled private study sessions in the library, compulsory attendance at the end-of-the-day work club with the HOY and periodic review meetings with parents and the HOY/responsible teacher.

A variety of measures and sanctions will be used as appropriate. These may include compulsory attendance at scheduled private study sessions in the library, compulsory attendance at the end-of-the-day Friday work club with the Head of Sixth Form and periodic review meetings with parents.

Home learning Reviews take place at the beginning of lessons. They will be linked to the home learning, and review, consolidate and reinforce prior learning. GAPS will be identified and embedded into future teaching and learning.

Home learning Reviews at P16 will be linked explicitly to home learning tasks It can be:

- assessing GAPS from previous topics
- AO understanding
- Exam success criteria
- Mark scheme features

Home learning Protocols 2024-2025

Essentials:

Home learning is to be set online. Please take this into consideration when setting a detention. If there

By Teachers/HOD:

