ST. PHILIP HOWARD
CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

Saint Ralph Sherwin
Catholic Multi Academy Trust

Homework 2026 - 2027

Homework is any work or activity that Students are asked to complete outside of lesson time- either on their own, with peers or with support from parents or carers.

RATIONALE

Our Mission Statement emphasises our aim to ensure that all students fulfil their 'potential' and have 'inspiration and passion for learning'. The provision of regular, rich, relevant homework tasks, appropriate to their needs and to the demands of the curriculum is considered to be an essential part of the entitlement of all our pupils. The prime purpose of Homework is to enhance Students' learning and enrich support Students' academic progress and foster the development of personal and individual study skills.

AIMS OF HOMEWORK

This policy aims to:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend school learning, for example through additional reading.
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands, such as GCSE Controlled Assessment preparation or project work.
- To support the home/school relationship.

PRINCIPLES OF HOMEWORK

The research evidence shows that the impact of homework, on average, is five months' additional progress.
There is some evidence that homework is most effective when used as a short and focused intervention (e.g. in the form of a project or specific target connected with a particular element of learning) with some exceptional studies showing up to eight additional months' positive impact on attainment. Benefits are likely to be more modest, up to two to three months' progress on average, if homework is more routinely set (e.g. learning vocabulary or completing practice tasks in mathematics every day). **(EEF 2018)**

Homework should be appropriate to the needs and abilities of the pupil and relevant to the demands of the curriculum. Homework may take a variety of forms, including, revision, note making, extended writing, skill-practice, preparation,

research, analysis, creative or graphic work, design or evaluation. Homework should be set regularly. Homework assignments should be marked according to the Marking Policy. All teachers should encourage the development of student's personal organisation and study skills through the regular and systematic use and monitoring of the School Planner and VLE. The School Planner is an integral part of the teaching and learning process.

HOMEWORK IN PRACTICE

What should teachers consider when setting homework?

- Planned and focused activities are more beneficial than homework, which is more regular but may be routine or not linked with what is being learned in class.
- The broader evidence suggests that homework should not be used as a punishment or penalty for poor performance.
- A variety of tasks with different levels of challenge is likely to be beneficial.
- The broader evidence suggests that the quality of homework is more important than the quantity. Pupils should receive specific and timely feedback on homework.
- Have you made the purpose of homework clear to children (e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or fluency in a particular area)? **(EEF 2018)**

How is Homework set?

- All homework will be set on the ***VLE:*** https://sph.myvle.co.uk/login/ this will enable parents, teachers and students to monitor and track homework assignments on an easy to use online system.
- A School Planner is also issued to all pupils that may also be used to record homework when necessary. Pupils and their parents receive information and advice on its correct usage.
- All teachers should set homework on a regular basis (regularly as applicable to the subject's curriculum time).
- Homework tasks/ assignments can be set online using Century or Seneca to revisit key knowledge.
- Homework and study facilities are available in the Library during lunchtimes and evenings, including Homework Club in the Learning Support Centre, to ensure that all pupils have equal opportunities to study and equal access to study facilities.
- All homework is to be regularly marked and returned to students in a timely manner.

TYPES OF HOMEWORK

Homework might include such things as:

- Quizzing/ testing of knowledge and keywords
- Written assignments
- Consolidation/ revision and enhancement activities
- Preparation for formal and informal oral presentation
- Reading in preparation for a lesson
- Selecting and retrieving information/ researching a project
- Focused Reading
- Conducting background research

Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take into account individual needs.

Homework Incompletion:

When homework has not been completed, the class teacher will take appropriate action in the first instance. The HOD may also intervene when there is a persistent lack of homework completion. This could include a break time, lunchtime or an after-school detention. Parents/Carers should be informed according to the behaviour policy.

Further Reading:

Homework (Secondary – updated September 2018)
https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/generate/?u=https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/pdf/toolkit/?id=155&t=Teaching%20and%20Learning%20Toolkit&e=155&s=

Important New Study of Homework
http://www.learningscientists.org/blog/2016/10/18-1

Professor Sue Hallam, from the Institute of Education 'Homework: It's Uses and Abuses'
https://content.ncetm.org.uk/itt/sec/KeelePGCEMaths2006/Research/Homework%20Research/ReportSusanHallam.pdf

'Homework: Is It Any Good for Kids'
http://time.com/4466390/homework-debate-research/