

ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Home Learning Policy

September 2019



Let us remember we are in the presence of God "

Policy Adopted	Next Review	Author
September 2019	July 2020	E Robinson

Home Learning Policy

Rationale

Learning at home and independent learning is an essential part of raising pupil achievement at all key stages.

The Purpose of Home Learning

The main purposes of home learning at St Margaret Ward are as follows:

- To enable pupils to develop independent learning skills that will be invaluable throughout their time at school and in adult life.
- To make pupils revise key knowledge for their subjects
- To equip pupils with revision skills essential in meeting the demands of the new GCSE examinations
- To enable pupils to practice and extend skills in revision, memory recall and practice
- To assess pupils' understanding of what they have learned
- To allow pupils to explore alternative means of presentation and research
- To prepare for future lessons and assessments

Expectations

Setting home learning:

- The focus of home learning will become the learning of small blocks of information that will be tested in a weekly/fortnightly quiz as appropriate to the subject
- Home learning can also be used as drill and practice or a DIRT opportunity
- The school will provide a 'how to revise' guide to all pupils/parents which will be available on the school website
- It is not an expectation that home learning will be marked but work completed at home should be acknowledged and possibly rewarded. Pupils will have feedback on quiz/test scores following home learning.
- The focus of home learning should be to support pupils in achieving their best in the assessments.
- Additional activities and tasks may be set by classroom teachers at any point during the year but teachers should be mindful of when this is set and how much is being asked of pupils
- The home learning club, held every afternoon after school in the library, will continue to offer support and resources to aid the completion of home learning activities and to support pupils in developing revision skills. This runs from 3:05 to 4:00pm daily.

Monitoring home learning:

- If a pupil fails to complete home learning (quiz/test scores show a lack of home learning) they can be given an opportunity to hand it in the next day or the next lesson or repeat the quiz during a detention. If they fail to do so further intervention is at the teacher's discretion. A teacher can organise and run their own detention (a standard letter is available in the office).
- Pupils who are not completing home learning on a regular basis (more than four pieces of home learning in a half term period) should be identified and reported to the DLA (who will meet the child to discuss their attitude within the subject) and LPM (who will see if a picture is emerging across subjects) who may decide to follow a suitable course of action (e.g. report, parental meeting).

Communication with parents

- Parents and pupils are encouraged to value home learning. A letter to support the policy accompanies school correspondence every year.
- A home learning guide is available on the school website.
- Attitudes to home learning will be discussed at parents evening and consultation events.

Monitoring home learning: Staff

- DLA's will check whether appropriate home learning is being set by their subject staff through pupil planner, planning review and work trawl. Where concerns arise they should intervene and possibly pass to the CPD coordinator for further training.
- Home learning check is part of the whole school work trawl policy
- Assistant Principal for home learning will review adherence to the home learning policy through work trawl, planner checks, SIMS reports, parent and pupil surveys, staff feedback and the feedback provided by DLAs and LPMs in the half termly meeting.

Evaluation

- The effectiveness of the home learning policy should be reviewed annually. This is to ensure that teachers and parents are completely clear about what is expected of pupils in terms of home learning and how it should be organized and managed.
- Parents/carers feel that their child receives sufficient home learning that is appropriate to their needs as seen on the parental survey.
- Completion rates of quality home learning of 90%.
- Pupil voice shows that the majority (over 75%) of pupils feel that home learning is regularly set, is appropriate to their needs, is marked and helps them to make progress.