

# St Bede's Catholic Voluntary Academy



## Homework Policy

We commit ourselves to love, respect and serve one another as disciples of Jesus Christ

## **Rationale**

*'Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education'* (1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools).

Homework is work that is set to be done outside of the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising attainment and promoting good and outstanding progress.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

Homework enhances student learning, improves attainment and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

## **Aims**

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.
- Develop and promotes resilience.

## **Types of activity suitable for Homework**

Reading, following up classwork, developing classwork, researching, preparation for lessons, independent work, organising activities, working on problems, coursework and projects, learning, collecting, constructing, writing, watching and listening, interviewing and revision.

## **SEND**

In setting homework for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), teachers are encouraged to balance the right of students to share fully in the work of the class with their individual learning needs. This may necessitate a slightly different approach to the homework set to SEND students across The Academy.

## **Pupil Premium**

The Academy is committed to ensuring no student, when asked to do homework, is disadvantaged by lack of access to resources. The Academy will provide access to all resources necessary to complete a given homework for any student who requires this support.

## **Homework across the Curriculum**

The amount of homework set will vary across the departments at The Academy. For example, it would be logical that there will be less written Homework in a skills-based subject than in a traditional academic environment. Students should expect to be set a maximum of one piece of homework per subject, per week. As the experts in their own fields, The Academy supports the integrity of Subject Leaders in the management and regularity of setting homework tasks.

Homework should not normally be set for the following day unless appropriate. Students should record homework in their Student Planner and Student Reports, issued to parents by The Academy, will include a reflection on students' attitude and diligence in completing homework tasks.

Students in Key Stage 4 should expect to receive more homework than those in Key Stage 3. It is the responsibility of the Subject Leader and their Subject Team to decide on the amount of homework set and to monitor that when set, homework is being completed diligently.

## **Rewards and Consequences**

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework in line with the Rewards and Consequences Policy.

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet students' needs. If this is so, sanctions should be put in place in line with the Rewards and Consequences Policy. In line with said policy, students will be issued with a C1 for a first missed Homework. This will be escalated to C2 (break time detention) for a regular lack of Homework.

## **Responsibilities**

### **The role of the Student:**

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To write down instructions, for the task and the deadline date, into the Student Planner.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work to the best of their ability.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

### **The role of the Parent:**

1. To provide a reasonably peaceful place for doing homework.
2. To make it clear that they value homework and support the school in showing how it can help their children make progress.
3. To expect and aid their children in meeting deadlines.
4. To give praise for the completion of homework.
5. To check the Student Planner to ensure they are being filled in correctly.

## **The role of the Class Teacher**

The Class Teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken alongside their Subject Leader.

The Teacher will:

1. Set homework regularly in line with their subject specific requirements.
2. Provide a clear stimulus for the homework.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
5. Mark and return all homework promptly in line with The Academy's Assessment and Feedback Policy.
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Subject Leader, Learning Tutor and House Leader, as appropriate, if problems arise.
8. Issue rewards and/or consequences as appropriate.