

St Nathy's College

HOMEWORK POLICY

[Effective January 2011]

Homework consists of written and revision work. A balanced approach is necessary between homework, extra-curricular and leisure times.

Students are encouraged to draw up a study timetable. The length of time required will vary with class, subject and level. Subject Departments will make recommendations with regard to homework which is specific to their subject areas.

The following time spent on homework should serve as a guideline:

1st Year	2 hrs
2nd Year	2.30 hrs
3rd Year	3 hrs
TY Year	Projects and homework as assigned
5th Year	3 hrs
6th Year	3+ hrs

Students will be given direction and help in homework / study skills. Students with special needs will be given special support and consideration.

Homework is to be done carefully and consistently.

Copied or carelessly done work is unacceptable.

It is recommended that homework be completed at a reasonable hour before a student is too tired.

Weekend or evening jobs are discouraged during exam years.

If, for any valid reason, a student has been unable to do homework, an explanatory note in the school diary is required.

Parents will be informed if pupils consistently do not do homework.

It is recommended that students do homework on the night it is assigned in order to maximise benefits to students.

From second year onwards, students are expected to do written assignments of longer duration at weekends - especially students who plan to take Higher Level in a subject

Parent(s) / Guardian(s) should

- Provide the necessary support and encouragement for the completion of homework.
- Provide suitable conditions for homework.
- See that adequate time is spent on homework and that homework is completed.

- Check homework journals on a regular basis and sign at the end of each day.
- (In the case of junior students) check that all books and copies required for the following day are in the schoolbag.
- Ensure that if a student is absent he / she makes every effort to keep homework and notes up to date.
- Contact the school if there are difficulties with homework. The school diary may be used for this communication.
- Ensure that the subjects for each day of the coming week are recorded in the homework journal.

Students should

- Bring the school diary to each class and place it on the desk.
- When homework is assigned it must be recorded by the student in the diary.
- Responsibility lies with the student to do homework, present it properly and to co-operate with the teacher in this regard.
- Pay attention in class in order to gain the understanding and knowledge required to complete assigned tasks.
- Produce homework to meet agreed deadlines.
- If a student is absent from class, every effort should be made to find out and complete assigned work.
- If the amount of homework is inconsistent or considered to be unmanageable, students are encouraged to report this to the subject teacher.
- At the weekends, each student should record the subjects and dates for each day of the coming week in their school diary.
- Students should write down homework in the school diaries as it is given.
- Students should make every effort to do the assigned homework and present it on time.
- Failure to complete homework will require an explanatory note from a parent/guardian in the student's school diary.
- Failure to attempt or complete homework without reasonable explanation should be recorded by the subject teacher in the student's diary and a parent's / guardian's signature requested. A sanction may be applied by the subject teacher. If the problem persists, the subject teacher should bring it to the attention to the Class Tutor and Year Head.

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Study Tips

- Homework involves written, project, oral and learning work.
- Record all homework in the school diary and tick off when completed.
- Start homework as early as possible in a quiet room - free from distractions, TV, I-pods and mobile phones.
- No music while studying.
- Work at a desk while studying or doing homework.
- Vary starting subjects. Ones you find difficult should be first or second.
- Ensure that homework for the following day is complete first.
- Mix learning and written work throughout.
- Keep actively involved as you work by
 - ❖ Writing out notes / words on study copies
 - ❖ Summarising paragraphs in your own words
 - ❖ Reciting or stating points aloud (close book)
 - ❖ Drawing what you have learned
 - ❖ Making up a word search
 - ❖ Testing yourself / getting a parent / guardian to do so
 - ❖ Using post-it notes on wall
 - ❖ Using online e-test programmes
- Avoid pre-study delaying tactics e.g. getting something to eat / drink / making a call.
- Start at a planned time.
- For the first two weeks be very strict with yourself to get the routine going.
- Structure breaks and get some fresh air. An outdoor activity is recommended.
- Have a reward system e.g. when homework is completed do something enjoyable.
- Get parents to sign the school diary each evening.