

## **ST LOUIS HIGH SCHOOL**

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

#### **Introduction**

St. Louis High School is a dynamic centre of learning which seeks to provide a high quality, holistic education. In line with our school motto 'ut sint unum', the overall purpose of this policy is to enhance the positive atmosphere of the school and enable us all to work together to develop the potential of our students.

#### **Rationale**

This school accepts the principle that teachers and parents can influence student motivation. Hence, the development of a policy which aims to implement a consistent whole-school set of expectation for students – expectations that are considered appropriate by teachers, understood by students and parents and are accepted as reasonable by them.

#### **Goals:**

1. That the students and parents would have a clearer understanding of the nature of homework.
2. To ensure an equitable distribution of homework for each subject.
3. That the students would have a greater appreciation of homework expectations and the reasons for them.
4. That they would formulate good study habits and effective study skills.
5. That the students would develop the capacity to organise their own work and take responsibility for doing it.
6. To enhance the academic achievements of students.
7. To encourage parents to monitor and to share responsibility for their children's level of progress.
8. To put in place a system of rewards and sanctions.

## **Policy Content:**

1. Homework can take a variety of forms:
  - Written assignments
  - Learning assignments
  - Revision work eg. Revision of class work, making notes, key terms, syllabus headings etc.
  - Collecting information for projects, research etc.
  - Listening to recordings eg aural/oral work, music etc.
  - Watching education documentaries, television and online programmes, preparing for debates, role-play, podcasts etc.
  - Practice for practical subjects eg Music, Art, Home Economics
  - Organising of materials/equipment specific to subject needs eg art, home economics, music etc.
  - Reading and research in the local library and online.
  - Online assignments eg. Moodle
  
2. In consultation with teachers an appropriate amount of homework will be given to students.
  
3. The aim of homework is primarily to improve the students' grasp of material and work covered in class, while also and especially in a student's senior years to encourage the gathering and assimilation of additional materials that may be beneficial to student learning.

In this school, the students will be expected to bring their Student Journal to every class. Students will record all homework in the Journal, whether the homework is 'written' or 'learned' and teachers will allow time in each class for the recording of homework. Students are required to complete homework to the best of their ability and to submit all assignments on time. Where a student is unable to complete an assignment the parents will be required to submit a note of explanation with regard to the difficulty encountered and describing the effort made by the student to complete the assignment on time.
  
4. Early in the first term of each school year, the subject teachers will advise the students on study methods applicable to their subject areas. In addition, advisory seminars on Study Skills will be organised annually. 'After school' study will also be available to students who would like to avail of that service.
  
5. Time will be allowed during each class for the assignment of homework. Students will be asked to record homework in their Student Journals and record the date on which the homework falls due. Clear and precise instructions regarding homework and due dates will be given. Assignments will be relevant to the work being undertaken in class or to revision work. It will be purposeful and meaningful and will

be appropriate to the ability of the students. This will hopefully enable them to develop good organisational skills and to take ownership of their own learning.

6. Students will receive appropriate feedback on homework assignments within the context of level and subject area. Feedback will be in oral and/or written format, factual, accurate and fair, and the aim at all times will be to enhance the academic development of the student.
7. Parents can support the school homework policy by ensuring, as far as possible, that students have time and space for homework. Ideally, students should do their homework/study at a definite time and place each evening, there should be adequate light and heat, and an upright chair at a table or desk is most suitable. Once a study session commences, no interruptions or distractions should be entertained eg. no friends calling, no interaction on social media, no telephone calls, no TV or radio, no loud music or other distractions.
8. They should spend an adequate amount of time on homework (see recommended guidelines). As students progress through school, aim for an environment similar to exam conditions when studying. Parents of students are expected to check and take an active role in ensuring that all homework is completed in full and on time and ensure that homework is being recorded and completed. Parents of Junior Cycle students are expected in addition to sign the school journal each week and ensure that homework is being recorded and completed. Parents will receive regular written reports during the academic year. These reports may also include a comment on homework and application to study. Communication between parents and teachers will be encouraged at all times and a parent/teacher meeting for each year group will be held once a year.
9. Effort with homework will be rewarded. Priority will be given to creating good habits in first year. Subject teachers will reward students for punctual, consistent, good quality homework. Positive feedback will be reflected in the comments books (pink pages), in the school journal, in reports, at assemblies and awards ceremonies. Sanctions will operate through the existing comments book etc.

### **Recommended Time for Homework per night**

Students have different levels of ability and they differ in the amount of time needed in order to complete assignments. Therefore, it is impossible to indicate precisely the time that should be spent by each individual on homework/revision. However, the following guidelines would seem to suit most students as they move up through the school:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Average Time Per Night</b>	<b>Average per week</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Yr	1½ - 2 hours	7½ - 10 hours
2 <sup>nd</sup> Yr	2 hours	10-12 hours
3 <sup>rd</sup> Yr	2½ - 3 hours	12½-15 hours
TY	This can vary depending on project work etc.	This can vary depending on project work etc.
5 <sup>th</sup> Yr	3 hours	15-17 hours
6 <sup>th</sup> Yr	3-4 hours	16-20 hours

### **Role and Responsibilities**

#### **Students are required:**

- To record homework in Journals
- To do homework set, whether oral/learning/written/practical or revision
- To present homework well done and on time
- To exercise good time-management skills in terms of the completion of homework to deadlines.

#### **Parents are encouraged:**

- To support school policy
- To provide a suitable environment conducive to study and homework as outlined in point 7
- To ensure that quality time is spent on homework
- To monitor the school journal
- To support their daughters to eat healthily and be physically active in order to enable positive learning and engagement in homework and study.

#### **Subject Teachers are expected:**

- To implement the policy, review homework assignments and provide feedback to students
- To keep records of homework set
- To instruct students in homework/study skills

**Pastoral Care Personnel** (Year Heads, Class Tutors, Guidance Counsellor and Special Education Team) will:

- Monitor the effects of the policy and identify the students who are experiencing difficulty

- Provide support and guidance, especially for those who find academic work a challenge
- Liaise with subject teachers, especially in relation to consideration for students with special education needs.

**Principal, Deputy Principal and Year Heads will:**

- Establish structures and procedures for the implementation of the policy
- Monitor the implementation of the policy

**Board of Management will:**

- Approve the policy
- Ensure that the policy is developed and evaluated from time to time
- Consider reports from the Principal on the implementation of the policy.

**Reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management 14-06-2016**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mrs Maura Mooney (Chairperson BoM)

**For Review**\_\_\_\_\_