

Author	Amanda Fleck	Target group	All St Marks teaching staff, parents and carers
Issued	January 2023		
Approved by	St Marks SLT	Next review	September 2024

At St Mark’s Academy, we believe that all students are entitled to a transformational education that will enable them to realise their God-given potential and ensure they have the ambition, confidence, cultural capital and employability skills to be successful in their future university and professional career.

The St Mark’s Academy homework policy is based on research that states ‘homework has a positive impact on learning of + 5 months, particularly with pupils in secondary schools’ ([EEF, 2021](#)).

Homework enables students:

- To consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- To develop research skills.
- To complete independent work.
- To enhance their study skills e.g., planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for their own learning.
- To engage parental co-operation and support.
- To create channels for home school dialogue.

Ethos and Expectations

The purpose of homework is to enhance and extend learning; the homework should have a relevant place within the curriculum.

Homework remains the responsibility of the curriculum area and each class teacher needs to instill the purpose of the homework task into the lesson. There will be an expectation that all homework is completed, and any difficulties with the homework will be explored so the student has success with their homework.

The support for completing homework will come from the class teacher, coach, progress leader and parents.

There will be a homework timetable given to every student. The homework timetable will act as a guide so pupils and their parents will know that they should expect homework.

At St Mark’s the homework is set as follows:

- **At Key Stage 3** (Years 7,8 & 9), students should spend approximately 30 mins per week per subject.
 - Art, Tech, Music and Drama will be set one project piece of HW each half term.
- **At Key Stage 4** (Years 10 & 11), students should spend approximately one hour per week per subject.
- **At Key stage 5** (Years 12 & 13), students should spend approximately 4 hours per week per subject.

All pupils are expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes every day.

All homework will be set on **Teams** as per the homework timetable.

- Homework will be **set on the day stated** on the homework timetable for each year group.
- Homework can be submitted in books, on an online platform or via Teams – this will be directed by the class teacher.
- Students will usually have **one week** to complete the homework set unless it is a project-based piece of homework in Key Stage 3.

Praise and Rewards

St Mark's Academy is a community founded on **Love, Hope** and **Trust** and to recognise effort and attainment in homework tasks via the following mechanisms:

- Praise from the class teacher in lessons.
- Achievement points recorded on SIMS.
- For exceptional pieces of homework, a postcard, email or letter may be sent home.

Sanctions

For homework to effectively compliment learning in the classroom, all students need to be engaged in homework completion. Teachers should support the pupils and ensure the homework set meets the students' needs. However, when homework is not completed, then sanctions should be used.

Our sanctions for non-completion of homework are as follows:

- Non-completion of homework will result in a 30 min detention on the day.
- A text message will be sent to parent or carer when a sanction is issued.
- Termly reports will be sent to all families to share data about homework completion.

To support learners and avoid sanctions being necessary, we have the following support mechanisms:

- Access to all homework and classwork on Teams and paper copies provided where required.
- Daily homework club in a supervised IT room from 3:05pm – 4:00pm.
- Daily access to the library at lunchtime and after school.
- Support with IT issues through a pastoral referral process.
- One to one support through teachers or coaches.
- Support with revision resources for KS4 and KS5.
- Parent/Carer information evenings to share key strategies to support students with learning at home.

If there are persistent problems across a number of subjects, the pupil will be referred to attend a homework club by the progress leader in consultation with the pastoral team and the Assistance Vice Principal responsible for homework. A letter will be sent home and the attendance at homework club will be compulsory for a period of **4 weeks**.

How parents and carers can support with homework

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents/Carers can assist by:

- Providing a quiet place to work.
- Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Help the student to check the homework on Teams.
- Providing the school with information about any problems by contacting their child's coach.

Accountability

The role of the student:

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To check Teams daily to review homework tasks.
- To ensure that homework is completed to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties in advance of the deadline.

The role of the class teacher:

- Set homework according to the timetable on Teams.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions in lessons.
- Set homework a week ahead of the deadline and ensure that the deadlines are met.
- Check that homework has been completed.
- Record **achievements** for **good homework** and **sanctions** for no homework on SIMS – the day the homework is due.
- Provide help and support to individual students including online passwords e.g. for Educake.
- Inform the Head of Department, Coach and Progress Leader, as appropriate, when problems arise.
- Will check completion of homework in books, on Teams or via online platform.
- Will keep a record of homework grades/marks and use the assessment to inform planning.

The role of the coach:

- To ensure the pastoral team is made aware of any IT access issues that students have.
- To inform the progress leader and Assistance Vice principal if a parent contacts them regarding challenges with homework.
- To check homework is being set on teams.

The role of the head of department:

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
- To ensure that relevant homework tasks are included in the curriculum.
- To monitor and evaluate homework within their curriculum area ensuring it is regularly set, and is fit for purpose and matches the needs of the pupils.
- To enforce necessary sanctions and interventions to ensure homework is completed.
- Will monitor the quality of homework by book scrutiny and homework marks.
- Will evaluate the quality of homework ensuring it is regularly set, is fit for purpose and matches the needs of the pupils.

- Will monitor the number of detentions given within their subject area.

The role of the progress leader:

- To support the subject areas in ensuring homework is consistently completed.
- To intervene if students are having difficulties across the curriculum.
- To keep parents informed of any difficulties.

Progress leaders:

- Ms Hart Dyke (Yr 7) – lhartyke@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
- Mr Sullivan (Yr 8) – jsullivan@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
- Mr Techie-Mensah (Yr 9) – mtechiemensah@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
- Mr Stevens (Yr 10) – jstevens@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
- Mrs Grey (Yr 11) – sgrey@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
- Ms Wilson (Yr 12) – ewilson@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk
- Ms Hopwood (Yr 13) – lhopwood@Stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

The role of the Assistant Vice Principal afleck@stmarks.anthemtrust.uk

- To provide staff, students and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practices to enhance homework across the academy.
- To review annually the school homework policy.
- To monitor and evaluate the Academy homework policy.
- Will monitor homework the rewards and sanctions set by teachers weekly.
- Will spot check homework set on Teams.
- Will communicate with progress leaders when there are issues with students not completing homework and refer to homework club.
- Will sample examples of work and carry out student voice on a half termly basis.
- Will review the school homework policy annually.