



Senior School Homework & Schoology Policy

St Aloysius' College

Homework

Homework is an integral part of the curriculum at St Aloysius' College. It extends and consolidates classroom learning and allows children to develop independent research and study skills. If homework is to be effective, there must be an active and ongoing partnership between parents and teachers.

Details of homework will be recorded on Schoology.

Homework is to be set by teachers according to whole-school and subject policies. There will obviously be occasions when it is desirable or appropriate not to set work, or to set a larger assignment to be completed over a period of time. Staff are to ensure, by discussion with Heads of Department and reference to Schoology, that, on balance, proper demands are being made on pupils and that they are neither being overloaded nor underworked.

Heads of Department have responsibility for monitoring the setting, quality and marking of homework.

First and Second Year

20 minutes per subject per day.

Subjects which set essays should allow the weekend for these to be completed.

Essays should be in addition to Mon-Fri homework.

7 hours 20 minutes per week + essays.

If a homework exercise will take more than 20 minutes, pupils must be allowed more than one day to complete it.

Third and Fourth Year

2.5 hours per option subject per fortnight.

2.5 hours RE per fortnight.

3.5 hours English per fortnight.

3.5 hours Maths per fortnight.

12.25 hours per week.

Fifth Year

3 hours per subject per week.

15 hours homework/study per week.

Sixth Year

AH 5 hours per subject per week.
Higher 4 hours per subject per week.

HOMEWORK ONLINE

Where possible, departments should make use of the College's online facilities for setting and marking homework.

Marking of homework

Homework is to be collected, marked and returned within a reasonable time - normally within a week of being submitted.

Homework and TMAs

Homework will normally be the TMA (teacher-marked assignment) for the fortnight. However, other pieces of work will also be set. In such cases, it is quite acceptable to initial the homework to indicate it has been done and seen by the teacher without marking it in detail or giving it a grade.

INCOMPLETE HOMEWORK

Some children, either through difficulty or overenthusiasm, will occasionally spend excessive amounts of time on homework. If a child is staying up unreasonably late or is obviously distressed, it is always acceptable for a parent to insist that the work is abandoned. Parents are asked to rule off the work and to sign, indicating that a reasonable effort was made.

Persistent problems of this kind should be referred to the Head of Year.

Whole-school policy on homework defaulters

1. Pupils who have failed to complete homework for whatever reason are to present themselves (preferably with a parental note but acceptably with their own explanation) to the teacher concerned *before* the lesson in which the homework is to be collected. (*Before* means some substantial time before and not when the teacher arrives at the classroom to start the lesson). Pupils who fail to observe this simple courtesy will in the first instance be given a verbal warning which should be recorded on 3sys. Teachers should follow the progression of sanctions below for repeat offenders.
2. Homework defaulters should be chased up immediately, with persistent offenders punished. Staff are encouraged to set tough standards in this regard:

First offence	Verbal warning
Second offence	Head of Department detention
Third offence	Special Report (Academic) + Headmaster's Homework detention
Fourth offence	The Head of Department should contact the Head of Year. If the problem relates to only one department, the HOD should make

contact with parents. If there is a problem in more than one subject, the HOY should contact the parents.

Fifth offence Parental meeting with the Head of Year to arrange support measures.

3. Heads of Year will contact and meet parents if any pupil misses 6 homeworks across all subjects.
4. Failure to submit a TMA should be noted in the gradebook by entering an x in the appropriate box. The x should remain, even if the homework is subsequently handed in and marked. In such cases, the x and the grade should be in the gradebook (e.g. xB).
5. Failure to submit homework, TMA or other, should be recorded on 3sys under Events.

SCHOOLGY

Schoology is an online learning management system. It replaced previous paper homework planners for P7 to S6 after our pilot project showed a dramatic reduction in homework defaulting rates. All pupils and staff involved in these year groups should be using it to ensure clarity about homework. Parents may also opt in to the system.

Expectations of Staff

All teachers are expected to set all homework on Schoology, ideally during the lesson, just as it would previously have been written up on the board. If this is not possible on occasion, pupils should be informed in class that they have homework due so that they know to take their materials home. The homework should then be set on Schoology as soon as possible and by 4.30pm that day at the latest. Homework assignments can be prepared in advance on Schoology and won't appear in the pupil's homework list until the date is set. Further support in using Schoology is available if required.

Staff should also check the Schoology messaging system at least once per school day and respond to messages within 24 hours of them being read, even if this is simply to acknowledge receipt. There is no expectation that staff will respond to messages outside of normal working hours, although this is not prohibited.

Expectations of Pupils

Pupils should check Schoology before packing their bag for the evening to ensure they take the correct materials home. (In the senior school, mobile phones can be used for this after 3.35) If a teacher has mentioned that they will be setting homework that night but not yet put it on to Schoology, then they should take those materials home also and check for the homework when they get home. It is also a good idea to have Schoology installed on a mobile phone or the calendar linked to Schoology, in case there are any problems with internet at home. If neither of these is working, pupils should attempt to get in touch with classmates. Further support in using Schoology is available if required.

Expectations of Parents

The Schoology messaging system should only be used for small practical points, just like a note in the planner was used previously. E.g. "Due to drama rehearsals, Johnny was unable to complete his homework. He will catch up tonight" Any wider concerns should be raised in the usual fashion through the head of section, year or department.

Policy Owner: *James Cluckie/Frank McWilliams*

Policy updated: *28.02.2017*

This policy will be annually reviewed by: *James Cluckie/Frank McWilliams*