

HOMWORK POLICY

St. Augustine's College believes in the value and purpose of homework. We endeavour to ensure that homework is educationally beneficial and meets the realistic expectations of students, teachers, parents and guardians.

Parents and guardians have an important role to play in assisting the school with the education of their son/daughter. It can strengthen the partnership in learning between the school and the Parent/Guardian. This policy is also intended to ensure that the importance of family and leisure activities is recognized in the amounts and types of homework given.

Purpose of homework:

- Is an important part of schooling
- Allows for extending, practicing and consolidating class-work
- Helps students learn how to plan and organize their time
- Develops habits of study, concentration and self-discipline
- Strengthens home-school links
- Offers Parents/Guardians some insights into what is being taught in the class-room
- Challenges and extends students.

Homework is most beneficial when:

- It is challenging and purposeful but not so demanding that it has adverse affects on motivation
- It is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis establishing a good routine of home study
- It is marked promptly and accurately
- Is followed by regular feedback to the student.

The amount of time a student spends on homework will depend on their age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students have free time for leisure and physical activities outside of school. Bearing this in mind the school makes the following recommendations as a guide to parents and students:

1st Year	1 – 1½ hours per day
2nd Year	1½ - 2 hours per day
3rd Year	2 – 2½ hours per day
5th Year	3 hours per day
6th Year	3 hours per day including weekends

This study time should combine:

- Homework (written and oral)
- Revision
- Exam preparation (leading up to exam time)

Students need to learn to be responsible for their work; this is a most important life skill.

Where possible homework should recognise the place of technology such as home computers, email and the internet. Students who do not have access to such technology at home should not be disadvantaged.

Coordination across faculties is essential. Students should be afforded the opportunity to negotiate the amount and types of homework based on the accumulation of work on any given day.

All students must have a homework diary. Homework diaries are very useful to develop organisational skills and time management and to improve home-school communication. As students move into the senior cycle homework demands will increase.

Students are expected to complete homework to the best of their ability at all times.