Sir John Nelthorpe School

Homework Policy

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Consultations/Training	All staff

Homework Policy

Philosophy and Purpose

At Sir John Nelthorpe School, homework is not set for its own sake but as a vital component of the learning process. It is designed to be high-impact, focused on retrieval, and integrated into the teaching cycle. It serves to:

- **Consolidate and build on classwork** through extension exercises and practice.
- **Develop independent learning habits** and personal organisation.
- **Address gaps in learning** by using data to identify and rectify misconceptions.
- **Provide parents with insight** into their child's learning, strengthening home-school links.

The Digital Approach

To ensure students receive immediate feedback and to allow teachers to use data-driven insights, the school utilises specialised digital platforms such as Sparx Maths and Seneca Learning.

Task Nature: Homework tasks should be based on **work covered in lessons that week**. This ensures that homework directly supports the retention of the current curriculum.

The Feedback Loop & Responsive Teaching

The move to Seneca and Sparx is designed to shift teacher focus from manual marking to **data analysis**.

- Teachers will review platform analytics to identify topics where the class or individuals have struggled.
- This information must be used to **address misconceptions and fill gaps** in subsequent lessons (e.g., during the "Do Now" task).
- This ensures that homework is an active tool for progress rather than a stand-alone task.

Frequency and Amount (Years 7-11)

Pupils follow a printed homework timetable displayed in their planners.

- **General Subjects:** One piece of homework per subject, per week.
- **Core Subjects (Maths, English, Science):** Two pieces of homework per week.

Time Guidelines: | Year Group | Time per Subject | | **Year 7** | 20 minutes | | **Years 8 & 9** | 30 minutes | | **Years 10 & 11** | 1 hour |

Administration and Monitoring (Years 7-11)

- **Recording:** Pupils must record all homework tasks in their planners. These should be signed weekly by parents and checked regularly by form tutors.
- **Monitoring:** Heads of Faculty and SLT will monitor completion rates via digital dashboards and planner checks as part of regular quality assurance.
- **Standards:** If homework does not reach the required standard (e.g., effort or accuracy), pupils may be required to re-attempt it.
- **Sanctions:** Non-production will be recorded and followed up according to the **Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy**.

Parental Involvement and Balance

We value the role of parents as partners in learning.

- **Flexibility:** We recognise the importance of extracurricular activities and family time. If a task takes significantly longer than the allotted time, parents have the prerogative to "call a halt" and write a note in the pupil's planner.
- **Deadlines:** Teachers will provide adequate time for completion. Overnight deadlines are generally avoided to support better long-term knowledge acquisition.

Years 12-13 (Sixth Form)

Homework at Key Stage 5 is the cornerstone of A-Level and Level 3 success.

- **Purpose:** To facilitate flipped learning (research/note-taking before lessons), practice exam-style questions, and test attainment levels.
- **Amount:** Students are expected to complete approximately **5 hours of independent study/homework per subject, per week**.
- **Responsibility:** Students are responsible for their own organisation. The VI Form Progress Co-ordinator will assist with study programmes.
- **Monitoring:** Persistent failure to complete work will be reported to the **Director of Sixth Form**, which may lead to a formal supervised study support plan.

Relationships with other School Policies

Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy
Curriculum Policy
Schemes of Work Policy

Monitoring and review

The Governing Body, supported by the Head Teacher will review the policy annually.
Heads of Faculty along with class teachers will review schemes of work and ensure that there are adequate opportunities for homework to be set and provide challenge to pupils.