



Saint Paul's Catholic High School

Moving forward together. Achievement for all!

HOMELEARNING POLICY



Journeying together with Jesus Christ, we learn to love and love to learn.

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Key Stage 3

Intent:

To ensure there are clear and consistent links between our curriculum offer in school and pupil engagement at home, pupils will be expected to utilise knowledge organisers both in lessons and as part of our homework policy.

Each student will be given a 'Knowledge Book' which will contain knowledge organisers for every subject they study. They will also be given a homework exercise book where they will record all homework for every subject. This will be provided each half term and will link directly to the curriculum journey for each year group.

Students will be asked, by their subject teachers, to focus on a specific section of the knowledge organiser; each child will then read that section, cover it up and attempt to write out the information from memory. They will then check they have done this correctly, against the knowledge organiser, self-correcting any mistakes using a green pen. The use of a green pen is part of our whole school marking policy, focusing on making a difference time (MAD time).

This process may be repeated a couple of times for that homework and we will refer to this method as 'cover, write- check'. There will be three/ four subjects a night to complete with each one taking approximately 15/20 minutes.

How to use a Knowledge Organiser for homework

- Knowledge organisers contain critical knowledge you must know.
- This will help you recap, revisit and revise what you have learnt in lessons in order to remember this knowledge for the long-term.
- You must have your knowledge book for every lesson – it is part of your equipment.
- You will use your knowledge book for most of your homework, but you can also do additional self-study to help develop your long-term memory.

Style 1: Cover - Write - Check

- You will be asked to look at a specific section or sections of your knowledge organiser.
- You will need to follow your homework timetable so that you do the right homework for the right subjects each day.

1. Read a section of your knowledge organiser.

2. **Cover** it up.



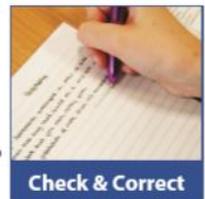
3. **Write** out what you've remembered.



4. **Check** the knowledge organiser to see if you're right.

5. **Correct** any mistakes in green pen.

6. Repeat this process two more times - even if you got 100% correct.



- You need to write your work into your Homework Book.
- Just like in lessons, you need to write the date and underline it.
- You also need to write the subject as a heading for each homework you need to complete.

Implementation:

On Friday of red week, form tutors will check that the homework has been completed and reward all students who have done so with a positive homework point. Any student who does not complete their homework, without good reason, will firstly be issued a negative achievement point, secondly, a phone call home will be made by a member of the pastoral team and finally an hour detention will be issued to be served on the third occasion that homework is not submitted. This cycle will be repeated with those pupils failing to engage with homework closely monitored by the T and L team.

Additionally, there will be a set homework timetable for each year group so that parents and students will know which knowledge organiser they need to use on which night (red week). At the beginning of the following week (blue week), all students will have a short in-class homework test to check that the knowledge they have learned is not forgotten. All the content within the knowledge organisers has been designed to ensure that St Paul's students will be exposed to some of the greatest ideas, art and information that has ever been written, spoken, performed or presented. This accumulation of knowledge will form part of their final assessments at the end of each of our curriculum topics.

Blue Week is solely dedicated to the testing of knowledge in school. Pupils may also be asked to complete additional work at home as a continuum of class work for some subjects- this is set by discretion of the classroom teacher. This may take the form of research, written task, comprehension task or revision and will link directly to the Departments Curriculum Journey.

Different recall and retrieval activities will be provided each half term within the testing timetable, by subject teachers. This method of testing knowledge will allow a broad range of teaching and learning recall/ retrieval activities to be explored over the course of the year. The purpose is to expose all pupils to meaningful and engaging ways of accessing and storing key pieces of information, in turn promoting high expectations and secure subject knowledge across all subjects.

Note:

Non-Core subjects: IT, Music, Geography and Drama will inform pupils of the homework and testing weeks through their classroom teacher. The setting of homework and testing of retrieval in these subjects will be twice per half term.

Impact:

We strive to equip our all pupils with the tools to be independent, resilient and well organised citizens. The homework intent of the homework policy is to better schoolwork retention of knowledge for a wide range of subjects. One of the main purposes of assigning homework is to help students retain what they have learned in school.

The implementation structure enables pupils to build on prior knowledge, cement new found knowledge and promotes curiosity of knowledge given beyond the classroom setting. The fundamental purpose of the implementation is to promote resilience from our pupils; encouraging pupils to actively identify gaps in knowledge but also be provided with opportunities to secure subject knowledge.

Year 7-9 Red Week Homework Timetable

Monday	English	PE	MFL	Music
Tuesday	History	ICT	Geography	Drama
Wednesday	Maths	Art	History	
Thursday	Science	RE	Technology	

Friday	Homework submission/ check in school	
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Key Stage 4

In Years 10 and 11 the demands of qualification courses means that the pattern of homework set may well vary from any published timetables. This is particularly relevant with regard to coursework where increased demands will be placed on pupils at certain times of the year.

At Saint Paul's, we have created a five year curriculum plan that builds effective revision strategies into homework and lesson tasks. Research around memory suggests that if knowledge is studied once and not revisited or revised, it is not stored in the long-term memory. This means that after one lesson, or revising for one test, the knowledge will not be retained unless it is studied again and again. It won't be recalled unless it is revisited frequently, which will embed it in the long term memory. This is often referred to as 'Spiral Learning' or 'Retrieval Practice'.

The research shows that if our students engage in this style of learning and revision, it will work! To do this well, students should be revising what they have been taught in recent lessons as well as content they have been taught previously. We have created a bank of Knowledge Organisers for every year group and every subject that relate specifically to content being covered in lessons each term. These will show the exact facts, dates, events, characters, concepts and precise definitions that students need to remember for each topic. Some examples of how best to use these Knowledge Organisers and improve students' independent learning skills are detailed below. These Independent learning strategies will not only help students to retain and recall knowledge but start to equip them with revision skills for examinations. In addition we hope that parents and carers will find these an easy way to support students.

As the year develops and the bank of Knowledge Organisers is developed, students will be able to use them to pre-learn and re-learn information, a vital part of processing all the information required to be successful in the new style GCSE's.

Mind maps: Mind maps are a great way of getting lots of key information on one page. 'A topic on a page' which the students can revise from. It's a good way of getting them to make links between events.

Knowledge Drop: This could be a great task for knowledge recall from a previous lesson or a topic studied some weeks ago. Simply write down all the points you can remember about a topic, it could be a spider diagram or a bullet pointed list. You can then check what you have remembered by using the Knowledge Organiser.

Flash Cards: These are great for examination preparation and especially good for people at home to support with homework. On one side write a question from your subject. This can be an examination style question or facts on a topic from the Knowledge Organiser. On the other side bullet point the answer.

Condense it: Students can read detailed pieces of information on a topic or from a Knowledge Organiser and find the key points. This can be done by highlighting the information or taking it further by condensing the information into 4 or 5 points or even some trigger words which will spark memory.

Give a lecture: This simple but effective task can be done in class or at home. Ask the student to talk about a topic without repetition for 1 minute. The aim is to get the student to verbalise their understanding of a topic and hopefully recall lots of information.

Mnemonic: The aim of a mnemonic is to remember important points, which may otherwise be tricky to achieve. The time spent making the mnemonic is a great memory aid itself! An example used in history classes to remember the terms of a World War One treaty can be seen below:

B- Blame

R- Reparations

A- Army

T – Territory

In remembering the word BRAT will help recall these key points.

Sketch it: A creative way of committing information to memory, students can use symbols, storyboards and even actions to remember the sequence of events or formula. We all learning in different ways, this a great way to help with visual memory. A creative way of committing information to memory, students can use symbols, storyboards and even actions to remember the sequence of events or formula. We all learning in different ways, this a great way to help with visual memory.