



Saint Augustine's Roman Catholic High School



Home Learning Guidance for Parents & Carers September 2017

Mission Statement

At Saint Augustine's we believe that every person is made and loved by God. This is why we respect one another. Within our school community our young people will learn to act justly, love tenderly and recognise God in their lives.

Our school helps families to educate their children in accordance with the principles and teachings of the Catholic Church in an environment which inspires, encourages and supports the development of our pupils through nurturing their gifts and talents.

Our school community will keep alive the memory of Jesus through the Eucharist and through the practice of our Faith. We want everyone at Saint Augustine's to experience the joy of the Gospel in their journey through school and beyond.

Together we will work to make a difference in our community and in the wider world. We follow the example of Saint Augustine by stepping out in faith and celebrating our reasons for living and hoping.

Introduction

Home learning is an essential component to ensuring that pupils achieve the highest possible grades. At Saint Augustine's, home learning is set every evening, with students expected to complete approximately two to three tasks.

Home learning does involve a variety of activities: written tasks, online activities, practice questions, reading, practical tasks and learning for assessments.

Our approach to Home Learning

At St Augustine's our view is that when we give children learning tasks to be completed outside of school they should be purposeful, linked to what is going on in lessons and where possible, encourage independent research and personalised learning.

Home Learning: How is it structured?

Our school website has home learning timetables for each year group. This information has already been sent home with your child, but you can also download it from www.sarchs.com. Click on PUPILS and you will see the home learning timetable for each year group.

Home Learning: How much time should it take?

We set home learning with the recommendation it should take the following times to complete:

Years 7 and 8:	45 minutes to 1 hour per day
Year 9:	1 to 1.5 hours per day
Years 10 and 11:	1.5 to 2 hours per day

Home Learning: Should parents and carers help?

Our view is that children are likely to get more out of an activity if parents get involved - as long as they do not take over too much! Most parents and guardians take a strong interest in their children's learning and we are keen to encourage this. Checking upon home learning is an obvious and practicable way of engaging with and supporting your child's learning. It is particularly important for children, as they get older, to become increasingly independent in their learning. Parents/carers should inform school via letter if there are any genuine reasons as to why pupils are unable to complete home learning.

Home Learning [HL] Diaries: How are they used/monitored?

All our pupils have been issued with a HL diary. When teachers set HL tasks they will give pupils sufficient time in lessons to record what they have to do. They will also indicate by when HL tasks have to be completed. Parents are asked to check and sign their child's diary every week. There is a space on every page for parents and teachers to write comments or requests. We encourage parents to make use of this facility. Form teachers also monitor HL diaries at school during registration time.

Home Learning: Should this be done only at home?

Throughout the week at St Augustine's we run a supervised Home Learning Club in Room 16 for pupils who would like some support and guidance with their work. This is available at lunch times. Pupils are also able to access the library and our ICT rooms at lunchtimes.

In Year 11, staff volunteer to run extra revision sessions to support pupils in preparing for their examinations.

Home Learning: Sanctions

It is important that pupils get into very good routines from the time they join high school with regards to their home learning. We offer advice for parents and carers in the new intake booklets.

Pupils who do not meet our expectations in completing home learning to a good standard will be met with our school sanctions, including being issued with green slips.