



St Andrew's Secondary School Homework Policy

In St Andrew's Secondary School, we believe in the value of homework, that it can reinforce students' learning, provide feedback on their progress and cultivate a healthy disposition towards continual learning, when used appropriately. Since excessive homework can have an adverse impact on the holistic development and well-being of the students, the amount of homework is carefully calibrated and outlined in this policy.

Definition of Homework

Homework refers to any learning activity that is to be completed outside of curriculum time* regardless of the mode of delivery (i.e. pen-and-paper, virtual, etc.) This includes assignments and projects, but not revision of school work or studying for tests and examinations.

**curriculum time refers to both school hours and HBL during the school term. Homework given on HBL days should be less considering the fact that the mode of learning for HBL is largely asynchronous.*

Objectives of Homework

- Reinforce learning and deepen understanding of lessons taught;
- Allow students to regularly practise, and apply skills and concepts taught;
- Develop good study skills and habits; and
- Encourage greater ownership and responsibility for independent learning
- Allow teachers to consolidate learning that has taken place in class;
- Allow teachers to check for students' understanding and progress, so as to provide timely feedback, intervention and support; and
- Allow teachers to review the effectiveness of lessons.
- Provide parents with timely information on the learning progress of their child; and
- Give parents opportunities to be involved in their child's learning.

Role of Teachers:

- Design appropriate and meaningful homework;
- Set realistic deadlines for submission of homework;
- Establish and communicate clear expectations to students on the purpose and procedure of homework;
- Coordinate with other teachers of the class on the frequency and quantity of homework to be given;
- Check homework and provide timely feedback to students;
- Provide timely intervention and support to students; and
- Engage parents on homework matters and provide them with information pertaining to students' learning progress.

Role of Students:

- Understand the purpose of homework and what is expected of them;
- Keep track of homework instructions and deadlines;
- Manage time well to ensure that homework is completed and submitted on time;
- Give his best effort in complete homework; and
- Review feedback from teachers on homework submitted.

Role of Parents:

- Create a home environment conducive for studying and completion of homework;
- Supervise and provide support for child's learning;
- Reinforce good study habits and attitudes;
- Be mindful of the stresses arising from school homework and out-of-school activities, and help their children prioritise their time among these activities; and
- Work in partnership with the school and teachers to support their child's learning and development.

Guidelines for Homework During School Term and School Holidays

The following time norms are derived from references made to the MOE guidelines as well as the school's assessment of the boys' needs.

Approximate Daily Time Norms for Homework During School Term

| Levels | Proposed Weekly Time Norms | Approximate Daily Time Norms |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sec 1 and 2 | 11 – 15 hr | 1.5 – 2 hr |
| Sec 3, 4, 5 | 13 – 18 hr | 2.0 – 2.5 hr |

For school holidays, the daily homework load will not exceed 50% of the daily load given during the school week. This is to ensure that the boys take a break from formal learning and get to spend quality time with their families and friends.