



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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John Scottus Secondary School

Homework Policy

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Patron: John Scottus Educational Trust Ltd., Company Registration No. 108257.

Homework Policy

John Scottus Secondary School

John Scottus School offers a vision of education which gives young people the self-mastery, strength of character and compassion to contribute meaningfully to the world around them whilst at the same time fulfilling their own unique set of talents and qualities.

It is an education based on the belief that each child can come to discover their innate gifts, that each child can come to contribute something exceptional, and that each child has at their heart a limitless potential.

Central to the ethos of the school is the development of character. Character building is described as the development of good habits such as the ability to be still and self-aware, to attend to the present moment, to participate in the spirit of enquiry and to unite with others around. These habits of attention, enquiry, stillness, and unity will provide the foundations for academic excellence, a life of meaningful purpose and a life journey of Self-Discovery. Mindfulness along with philosophy and meditation are considered the three key aspects in the journey of character building and the development of these habits. The mindful motto of the school is “Delight in the present” and the belief is that when a child comes to know their true Self it is possible to delight in the present every moment of every day. Each student is encouraged to achieve more than they expect. Full completion of homework is seen as an integral part of students’ development.

1. Introduction:

The primary activity of a student is learning. Learning is not something that simply happens after you read, write, and listen long enough. Learning occurs when you follow a particular set of organised procedures. Students who follow the procedures listed below will discover that their capacity to understand and remember material covered in classes will become greatly enhanced. In addition, their ability to apply this knowledge and to place it into a larger conceptual structure will also improve.

2. The Purpose of Homework

Homework is an integral part of the learning process and learning continues through the completion of homework.

- It fosters independent and self-directed learning.
- It develops good literacy skills.
- It helps to promote lifelong learning.
- It helps to enable students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- It is an opportunity for parents to be able to monitor their child’s academic progress.
- It helps to consolidate, revise and further explore class lessons.
- It develops habits of sound personal organisational skills.
- It gives further practice in areas that may require rote learning.
- It allows students to foster skills to recognise areas for improvements as a result of teacher feedback.
- It develops a high level of self-discipline and motivation, skills that are intrinsic to their future life-long learners.

3. Frequency

Students are given written and/or oral homework in at least three subjects per night.

Year level	Approximate hours
1 st Year	1 hour 15 minutes per night
2 nd Year	1 hour 30 minutes per night
3 rd Year	2 hours per night + 2-4 hours at weekends
4 th Year	1 hour per night, will vary depending on project work
5 th Year	2 hours 30minutes per night + 2-4 hours at weekends
6 th Year	3 hours per night + 6-8 hours at weekends

Please note this is only to be used as a guideline, some students may need more/less time to complete homework/study.

4. Homework rules and guidelines for students:

- Homework will be written on a homework board/uploaded on Teams daily by the subject teacher.
- All students are responsible for recording homework each day in their own diaries/checking homework assignments on Teams.
- Homework must be fully completed and handed in by the agreed deadline.
- If a student has been absent, the onus is on them to establish what homework has been set and to complete it within a reasonable time frame agreed with their subject teacher.
- Students must complete all homework on time, it should be presented to the best of students's ability in a neat and tidy fashion.
- Feedback on homework is to be reviewed by the student and responded to where necessary using green pen
- No homework or incomplete homework will result in homework detention to be set by subject teachers. Students and parents will be notified of homework detentions.

5. Parent's/Guardian's responsibility

Effective homework has positive and beneficial effects in reinforcing and facilitating learning, stimulating thinking, encouraging active independent learning, as well as developing and fostering a closer relationship between learning in school and at home. Parents/Guardians can support the school by assisting in the following:

- Establishing the habit of completing homework on time
- Be aware of allocated homework and see it is completed properly.
- If there are any difficulties with homework, parents/guardians should communicate these to the relevant subject teacher via a note or email to the subject teacher.
- Significant issues such as difficulty with completing homework or the amount of homework can be raised with the class teacher via email/office.

6. Homework recommendations

- Study in a quiet and appropriate space.
- Establish a routine of completing homework on the night it is set
- Use devices responsibly, e.g., no social media or texting.
- Seek help from parents, siblings and friends if needed.

- Read over homework to ensure it is up to the required standard before you submit it to subject teachers.

7. After school study

Students are also encouraged to attend seminars on study skills. To assist students with their homework and exam preparation, the school runs an after school study throughout the year. Times may change from year to year.

During after school study, the following rules are in place:

1. Students to be on time for the beginning of After School Study.
2. Students to sit at individual desks.
3. Students to work individually.
4. Students to work in silence.
5. Mobile phones or headphones are handed up to the supervisor at the start and collected at the end of the study.
6. When parents phone to collect students, the student comes to the supervisor's desk, collects the phone and speaks to their parents in the corridor. Unless they leave, they return the mobile to the supervisor after hanging up.
7. Students ask the teacher for permission to go on toilet breaks or collect books.
8. Students cannot consume food in the study centre.
9. Students need to be ready for the bus 10 minutes maximum and 5 minutes minimum before finishing time. The school bus departs at 5.30 pm. At this time mobiles are returned.
10. Normal school rules apply concerning confiscated phones, and other offences.

If the supervisor finds a student breaking these rules, their parents will be contacted and informed that the student cannot take part in after school study for a period of time.

Approved by the Board of Management: May 2022