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# Homework Setting, Marking and Feedback Policy

## July 2025

Last Review Date:	July 2024
Next Review Date:	July 2025
Governor's Signature:	



## The Purpose of Marking and Feedback:

At St Aloysius' College we are committed to ensuring the progress of all of the students in our care. We understand that feedback, when used effectively, can accelerate student progress and we know that marking is a critical aspect of this. We recognise that students will be motivated by regular and informative marking. We use the FAR model and this includes a general feedback point, a targeted action point and an extended response from the student. The FAR assessment model aims to develop and extend student responses in the exercise book.

### 1. Aims of Marking and feedback

- 1.1 To identify levels of attainment and achievement in relation to the student's individual ability.
- 1.2 To ascertain the student's level of understanding.
- 1.3 To provide a prompt for targeted dialogue by which students become independent learners through their ability to identify strengths and weaknesses and set targets for themselves in order to improve their work.
- 1.4 To inform lesson planning.
- 1.5 To encourage students to have a sense of pride in their presentation of work.
- 1.6 To correct mistakes.

At St Aloysius' College we recognise that different subjects have different assessment needs and therefore, this document must be read in conjunction with any departmental marking / feedback outlines. This document outlines the consistent practices that are expected of all departments.

### 2. Principles

- 2.1 Marking should be used to inform planning and drive up standards of student learning across the school.
- 2.2 Feedback should be accessible to all and enable students to identify their strengths and areas for development. It should motivate a learner and assist them in becoming reflective and self-regulating learners. Feedback should include **the FAR assessment model** to build upon student extended responses.

### 3. Type and Frequency of Marking

- 3.1 Students' work should be marked to inform planning and check student's understanding.
- 3.3 It is expected that all homework is set as outlined in the table below and is marked according to the FAR marking cycle. Where there is more than 1 homework set each week, at least one of these must be a deliberate practice homework.
- 3.4 A piece of deliberate practice homework or classwork should be teacher marked using the **FAR assessment model** (following the frequency below). The teacher should provide written specific feedback using a targeted action point on what each student must do to improve his work and the teacher is expected to check the completed task when next marking books. This means that marking should diagnose the strengths and weaknesses, and include targeted action points to benchmark success and encourage improvement and progress. The bullet points below detail the minimum requirements for each key stage. Heads of Departments may wish to increase this number to address weak progress.

FAR assessment model (**feedback**, **action**, **response**)

- **KS3** (subjects with 1 or 2 lessons per week): 1 FAR assessment every half term
- **KS3** (subjects with 3 or more lessons per week): FAR assessment every 3 weeks (2 per half term)
- **KS4** (all subjects): FAR assessment every 3 weeks (2 per half term)
- **KS5** (all subjects): Weekly FAR/written feedback

## Homework setting: Frequency

	<b>Core Subjects: English, Maths, Science</b>	<b>Foundation Subjects: RE, History, Geography, MFL, Business, Computing, Computer Science, Media Studies, BTEC and PE GCSE</b>	<b>Art, Music, DT, Graphics</b>
<b>KS3</b>	Twice weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1 retrieval (written)</li> <li>➤ 1 Deliberate Practice</li> <li>➤ 1 FAR response every three weeks</li> </ul>	Once weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Week A-Retrieval (written)</li> <li>➤ Week B-Deliberate Practice</li> <li>➤ 1 FAR response every six weeks (2 or fewer lessons per week)</li> </ul>	6-week Deliberate Practice project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wk 2- in class check</li> <li>➤ Wk 4- in class check</li> <li>➤ Wk 6- <i>Teacher Assessment using FAR</i></li> </ul>
<b>KS4</b>	Twice weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1 Retrieval (written)</li> <li>➤ 1 Deliberate Practice</li> <li>➤ 1 FAR response every three weeks</li> </ul>	Twice weekly <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 1 Retrieval (written)</li> <li>➤ 1 Deliberate Practice</li> <li>➤ 1 FAR response every three weeks</li> </ul>	3-week Deliberate Practice project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Wk 1-in class check</li> <li>➤ Wk 2-in class check</li> <li>➤ Wk 3- <i>Teacher Assessment using FAR</i></li> </ul>
<b>KS5</b>	Every lesson (all KS5 subjects) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Deliberate Practice</li> <li>➤ Retrieval</li> </ul>		

**Active marking\*--Classwork is marked using active or live marking--teacher circulates and checks completion of quality work by all students and targets those that are making poor progress generally. Classwork can also be self-marked by students with the teacher circulating the classroom and supporting students in need of additional help. Students will use green pen when marking their work and staff will use red pen.**

## 4. Monitoring and Evaluation

4.1 Heads of Department will ensure their departmental marking guidelines support the school policy. These guidelines should clearly identify the expectations regarding marking and feedback within their department.

4.2 Heads of Department will undertake quality assurance (QA) to ensure that (i) marking is in line with the school policy and that student presentation meets our whole school expectation. (ii) Feedback is responded to by students and is enabling progress. The teacher assessment (**FAR model**) is clearly signposted in the exercise books.

4.3 Line Managers will review implementation of this policy and hold Heads of Department to account for their monitoring and quality assurance of work in exercise books for all staff in their department. The QA schedule is followed by Heads of Departments and line managers will support the monitoring of marking, feedback and students' responses in exercise books.

## 5 Responsibility for Implementation of this policy

### 5.1 Teachers will ensure that:

- When a piece of work is set the success criteria should be made explicit to the students.
- Marking is timely, accurate, informs planning and uses agreed literacy codes according to the homework setting cycle and is in line with the curriculum plan.
- Written feedback will be targeted with an explicit action point. These comments should be accessible to the student using the **FAR assessment model**.
- High standards of presentation are maintained (dated, headings are underlined, classwork (c/w) and homework h/w) are clearly labelled for every piece of work.)
- Students are rewarded for excellent work through use of agreed school systems.
- Students are sanctioned for missed / poor quality work through use of the agreed school systems
- Students have a completed assessment tracker and *standards sticker*, and a termly curriculum plan in their books / folders as determined in the Department guidelines.
- Students have the opportunity to reflect on feedback, self-correct and improve their work.
- Student response work is completed in green pen. Marking / feedback should be differentiated according to the pupil's ability.
- To mark in red pen unless specified otherwise e.g. Examination Board Specifications.

### 5.2 Students will ensure that:

- They work to the best of their ability at all times.
- They present all pieces of work in line with whole school expectations as detailed on the Standards Sticker.
- They respond to all marking and feedback in green pen.

### 5.3 The Role of Parents and Carers

- Help your child by going through their books and ensuring the quality of work that is being completed.
- Reinforce and discuss the importance of doing your best in all tasks.
- Support your child in the organisation of their books and readiness for learning.
- Ensure that your child comes equipped for school each day and is ready for learning

### 5.4 Responsibility for implementation of this policy:

- Teachers and Teaching Assistants will ensure that the homework task is purposeful and meets the learning goals of the lesson.

### 5.5 The role of the Class Teacher:

- To set homework regularly according to the whole school homework timetable.

- To set purposeful homework which meets the learning objectives.
- To give full and comprehensive instructions for completion.
- To ensure appropriate resources are available.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- To provide feedback in a timely, accurate and actionable way.
- To record on Go4 Schools when students do not hand homework in on time and/or to the best of their ability.
- To sanction those students who have not completed homework to ensure that it is completed and to follow up with parents as necessary.
- To reward those students who produce outstanding homework.
- To provide help and support as and when required.
- To encourage the use of the library resources and Study Zone for homework activities.

### **5.3 The role of the Teaching Assistant:**

- To assist in checking that students understand their homework task and support students, particularly SEND students in homework club.
- To encourage the use of the library resources and Study Zone for homework activities.

### **5.4 The role of the student:**

- To listen to homework instructions in class (recorded on Go4Schools).
- To attempt all work and give their best effort.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties and seek support before the deadline.
- To respond to the teacher's feedback to their homework using the FAR assessment model.
- To signpost their h/w by adding a title and a date.

### **5.5 The role of the Form Tutor:**

- To monitor that homework is being completed using Go4Schools to check.
- To carry out meaningful conversations with students who require additional support with the completion of homework.
- Form tutors should draw the attention of the Head of Year of students who regularly have difficulties with homework so relevant interventions can be implemented.

## **5.6 The role of Heads of Department:**

- To monitor the quality and quantity of the homework set.
- To ensure that marking of homework is carried out in line with the school's and department marking policy.
- To support class teachers in sanctioning those students who regularly do not complete homework.
- To reward those students who produce outstanding homework.

## **5.7 The role of the SENCO:**

- To monitor the exercise books of SEND students.
- To carry out a QA cycle for exercise books of SEND students in years 7-11.

## **6. The role of parents and carers**

We encourage parents and carers to:

6.1 Help their child by going through homework tasks and checking he/she understands what has to be done.

6.2 To reinforce and discuss the importance of completing homework in order to make progress.

6.3 Provide a suitable environment in which work can be done.

6.4 Encourage students to attend after school support sessions e.g. Study Zone or the library, where students can work in a learning environment with accessible support and resources.

6.5 To monitor issues relating to homework completion by using Go4Schools parental access.

## **7. Support for students**

7.1 As a school, we will support students by:

- making available accommodation such as the school library and ICT rooms on a regular basis, at break and lunchtime and after school;
- opening and staffing the Library before and after school wherever possible;
- providing a daily homework Hub and a club in the SEND department with assistance if and when required;
- offering students studying for exams the opportunity to complete homework at school in Study Zone (Year 11).
- SENCO will monitor the quality of work in exercise books of SEND students in years 7-11.

## Appendix 1

### Extract from the Teaching and Learning section of the staff Handbook:

Feedback is crucial for students to achieve their potential. Feedback is integral to every lesson informing the teacher and student current performance by helping to identify areas of strength and weakness. The Sutton Trust report shows that effective feedback can make a difference of 8 months to a student's progress.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/feedback/>

For feedback to be effective the following need to be considered:

#### Specificity of feedback

As teachers we often need to know if a student is capable of completing a task or not. This provides the teacher with instant feedback allowing us to plan accordingly. If we want to provide effective feedback to a student that will support them to move forward we need to plan activities and assessments that will provide us with specific information. The following should be considered when planning an activity that will be used to provide feedback:

- does the activity show you what misconceptions the student has?
- does the activity highlight any gaps in learning?
- does the activity highlight key areas of development?
- does the activity make the student's thinking visible?

Before the students complete the activity, it is important to share the success criteria with students. This will provide students with a framework they can use to self-assess and enable the teacher feedback to provide specific next steps.

#### Errors vs mistakes

Research shows that when feeding back we need to make the distinction between 'errors' and 'mistakes'. Mistakes are something that a student is capable of doing but hasn't done this time. Errors are when a student has answered wrongly due to a misconception or lack of mastery. When providing feedback on mistakes and errors the approach should be different. For mistakes the teacher should draw the student's attention to them and ask them to correct them themselves. By not providing the answer the reliance on teacher support is reduced and the student is supported to improve their ability to self-assess. With errors however, the student will not be able to self-correct without additional support.

#### Self-assessment

In the long term improving the student will have a much bigger impact on learning than improving individual pieces of work. It is essential that we equip students with the ability to provide themselves with feedback. Being able to self-assess is important if students are to continue their learning when not with the teacher. This can be done in a number of ways:

- Detective work: When providing feedback teachers can support a student's ability to self-assess by asking the student to find and correct the mistakes themselves. For example:  
"3 out of 5 of these are correct. Find them and correct them."  
"In the class the following words have been spelt incorrectly. Reread your work, find the words and correct them."

“Here are 6 statements and next steps. Which one applies to your work and why?”

- Success criteria: Research shows that providing success criteria before activities has a positive impact on progress. Students should also be given time before the teacher feedback to self-assess their work. This signifies the importance of self-assessment and provides the opportunity for students to practise assessing their own work.
- Easy and difficult: At the end of an activity time should be allocated to allow students to reflect on their work. Asking students to identify the parts they found easy and the parts they found difficult allows students to clarify what they need to focus on to improve.

## Timing

Key to successful feedback is timing. Research shows that instant feedback, such as verbal feedback and next lesson feedback, is more valuable and has a greater impact on progress. Students find it easier to improve when mistakes and errors are corrected quickly. If mistakes and errors are allowed to be repeated over a sustained period overcoming these learnt mistakes will become a lot more difficult.

## Time

Time is an essential element of effective feedback. Students will only be able to improve if sufficient time is given to allow students to receive, consider and action feedback. This time can be allocated to lessons in a facilitated independent context. Research shows that without this time allocation the impact of feedback is reduced.

<http://www.learningspy.co.uk/featured/getting-feedback-right/>

At St. Aloysius' we recognise that effective feedback is provided in various ways such as verbal, written, whole class, peer and self-feedback.

Put simply, the focus of feedback is simply what moves the learner forward.

## Marking

Classwork and homework should be marked according to the marking policy. Time should be created in lessons for classwork and homework to be checked as per the marking policy and feedback given in the lesson to ensure that student work is of a high quality and students understand how to move forward in their learning. All homework should be marked according to the marking cycle outlined below. (see 'Homework setting and marking cycle')

<b>Classwork:</b>	<b>Homework:</b>
<b>Active (in-class) marking</b> Live feedback Active circulation Target underachievers Go through corrections & give feedback as a class Cold-call to check understanding	<b>Retrieval</b> Written activities (to improve recall, understanding and literacy). Quizzing apps may be used in addition to written retrieval. <b>Deliberate Practice</b> Self-assessment Teacher assessment (FAR model)

## Homework

To support mastery and long-term retention, homework is expected to fulfil these two purposes:



### Deliberate Practice

Activities that are designed to improve performance, challenge the learner, and provide feedback. This requires a clear model of what expert performance looks like and what actions need to be taken to achieve that level of performance. (Ericsson)

- Where possible this homework should provide opportunity to develop **literacy** and **numeracy** skills.
  - **Knowledge** should be embedded and consolidated through for example: *Extended reading, extended writing, problem solving, comprehension and practice exam questions.*
  - **Skills** should be developed and honed through for example: *problem solving, designing, drawing, painting, music rehearsal and sporting skills.*
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### Retrieval

Activities which bring information to mind to test and review prior learning. Deliberately recalling information forces students to extract knowledge and examine what is known. Done frequently, the forgetting process is interrupted. (Willingham)

- This homework should support interleaving and spacing and not only test recently learned material.
- **Knowledge** should be reviewed and recalled to support memory through for example: *Low-stakes quizzes, flash-cards, self-explanation or elaborate interrogation*

**Feedback** should be given on retrieval homework by identifying and correcting common misconceptions.