

The Costello School - Homework Policy - Information for parents carers and students - 2026 to 2027

Why do we set homework? - Homework reinforces classroom learning and helps students develop independence, organisation and responsibility. This policy explains how homework is set, what support is available and what happens when a task is missing or incomplete.

How often homework is set

Subjects	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
Core subjects and Modern Foreign Languages	Once a week	Once a week
Design and Technology and Food Preparation and Nutrition	At least once every six lessons	Weekly work on non-exam assessment (NEA)
Other subjects	At least once every six lessons	At least once every six lessons
Core PE and PSHE	Less frequent homework	Less frequent homework

Homework frequency reflects the subject timetable and the nature of the learning.

Why do we set homework?

Homework is designed to:

- Reinforce and consolidate class learning.
- Help knowledge move into long term memory.
- Develop independent learning, organisation, and responsibility.
- Prepare for future lessons by introducing new content.

What kind of homework will be set?

We aim to set homework that is planned, meaningful, and purposeful. This means:

- It links to what students are learning in class.
- It encourages critical thinking and application of knowledge.

- It is achievable, helping students feel confident and motivated.

How long homework should take

Key Stage 3: approximately 30 minutes per subject task.

Key Stage 4: approximately 45 to 60 minutes per subject task.

Finding and completing homework

All homework is recorded on ClassCharts with clear instructions, even where students complete the work using another app. Students are given one week to complete each task. Longer projects include regular check-in points so students can stay on track.

Students should check ClassCharts, plan their time and hand in completed work by the deadline. Parents/carers can support this by checking tasks and deadlines with their child and encouraging them to ask for help early.

Homework will be checked or assessed in a way appropriate to the task. This may include teacher feedback, whole-class feedback, peer assessment or self-assessment.

When homework is missing or incomplete

The sequence below applies to separate missed homework tasks within the same subject during each half term. The count resets at the start of each new half term. An incomplete task counts as missed homework.

Missed task in the half term	On the original deadline	If still missing 24 hours later	If still missing after a further 24 hours
First time	24-hour extension. No immediate sanction.	Level 1 (L1). Work must be handed in the following day.	Level 2 (L2) on the third day. The student is expected to complete the homework during the L2.
Second time	Immediate Level 1 (L1). Work must be handed in within 24 hours.	Level 2 (L2). The student is expected to complete the homework during the L2.	Level 3 (L3). The homework remains outstanding and must be completed.

Third time	Immediate Level 2 (L2). Work must be handed in within 24 hours.	Level 3 (L3). The homework remains outstanding and must be completed.	Level 3 (L3). The homework remains outstanding and must be completed.
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For the first missed task, handing in the completed work within the initial 24-hour extension means no sanction is issued. For the second and third missed tasks, the immediate sanction applies even if the work is handed in within 24 hours.

Each new missed task counts once. Further sanctions for the same outstanding task do not make it a second or third missed task. Completing a sanction does not remove the requirement to complete and hand in the homework.

Teachers will make the revised hand-in deadline and submission arrangements clear, including where a 24-hour deadline falls outside a school day or before the next lesson. Sanctions will be recorded on ClassCharts, and parents/carers will be contacted about repeated missed homework so that support can be agreed.

Support with homework

Homework Club runs every day after school in the library, supervised by school staff. All students are welcome to use the quiet space, access resources and receive help.

Students should speak to their teacher as soon as they need help, ideally before the deadline. Parents/carers should contact the subject teacher if there are difficulties understanding the task, accessing resources or completing it at home. We will consider individual needs and work with families to agree appropriate support.

If a task is taking much longer than the expected time, students should stop and let their teacher know what they have completed and where they are struggling.

Our approach to homework is designed to:

- Reinforce learning
- Build independence
- Keep workloads fair and balanced
- Ensure parents and students have clear communication and expectations

Together, we can help students develop the study habits and confidence they need to succeed