



Homework Policy

(ratified by the Full Governing Body on 10th July 2018)

Review Cycle: 2 Years – Summer Term

Review By: Leadership Team, Standards Sub-Committee

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Introduction

The following policy is designed to ensure consistency across the school in terms of homework setting and marking. This policy aims to ensure that students are given the opportunity to develop specific skills, knowledge and understanding outside the classroom, without overburdening students or staff with homework and marking respectively.

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it serves as an intellectual discipline, establishes study habits, eases time constraints on the amount of curricular material that can be covered in class, and supplements and reinforces work done in school. In addition, it fosters student initiative, independence and responsibility, and brings home and school closer together. It helps students to become confident and independent in their learning which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

Why is homework important?

If a student completes an hour's homework per school night for five years ... it is the equivalent of an extra school year.

- It can help students to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can provide students with the opportunity to:
 - practise further what has been learnt in class
 - apply what they have learnt in new contexts or situations
 - prepare them for future learning
 - integrate skills with knowledge and concepts
- It can allow students to develop the practice of independent learning. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
- Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for work of all kinds.
- It gives the most enthusiastic students the opportunity to apply their passion and gain a deeper insight into the subject.
- It can allow students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom, such as the internet, TV documentaries and news reports.
- It can involve parents and others in the students' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can give opportunities for long term research, enquiries and other work.
- It can form an important part of the student's notes – in preparation for the next lesson.
- It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines.

Setting of Homework

Homework is set according to a homework timetable. Every attempt has been made in developing the homework timetable to ensure that students have sufficient time to complete their homework, for instance not expecting students to complete homework on the day of setting for the following day. We believe this encourages students to manage their own workload.

Homework timetables will be issued at the start of the year and may be adjusted each term if required.

Guidance on amount of homework set:

We offer the following guidance on the time which should be spent on each homework task. If your child spends significantly less time on their homework than shown in the tables below, it would suggest that they have not completed the task set to a sufficient standard.

Any minor shortfalls in time spent on an activity should be made up with students reviewing their work and/or responding to staff marking comments.

Years 7 and 8

Subject	Total time per week
English	45
Maths	45
Science	45
Art	30
Technology	30
Languages	30
Geography	30
History	30
Performing Arts (Music and Drama)	30
RE	30
ICT	30
Total	Approximately: 6 hours 15 minutes*

Year 9-11 students

	Number of tasks per week	Total time in minutes per week
English	1 - 2	60
Maths	1 - 2	60
Science	2 (minimum depending on course followed)	2 x 60
Option subjects	One homework task per option	Between 180 and 240
RE	1	30
Total	Approximately 7 hours 30 minutes – 8 hours 30 minutes per week*	

*for those concerned that this is too much, this amounts to around 1 hour per day in Years 7 and 8 and only slightly more in Years 9 to 11

Please note: should a lesson not take place due to activities such as Super Learning Days, Sports Day etc., then no homework will be set for that lesson on that day.

Should a student be absent for a day, it is their responsibility to find out what homework has been set and ensure that it is done. At times, this may require a student seeking an extension to a deadline. It is also the student's responsibility to seek this extension in advance of the deadline wherever possible.

Homework Tasks

Teachers will set planned activities, identified in the schemes of work, to help consolidate or further students understanding. It is important that students are set a variety of tasks which may fall under the following headings (although this is not an exhaustive list):

Quizzing

Students will be set over learning and revision in order to consolidate subject knowledge and understanding. The majority of homework in Years 7 and 8 will be set in this format.

Online

Students to be set interactive online tasks and quizzes using identified resources such as Doodle or other subject specific resources. Where Doodle quizzes are used, teachers will usually set a minimum percentage score to be achieved before they will accept that the homework has been completed.

Learning tasks

Students may be set a shorter learning activity, such as learning spelling or key definitions, which will then be tested during the lesson.

Revision

Students will be asked to revise specific areas of the curriculum, which will then be tested during lesson.

Other

Students to be set any of the following:

- Exam question
- Written exercise to be completed in their books
- Reading
- Research, which may or may not involve production of an 'end product' at home

Marking of Homework

Teachers will not provide detailed feedback to students on every piece of homework completed, but may elect to use certain pieces for their focussed feedback as outlined in the marking policy. Teachers will endeavour to acknowledge each piece of homework* using the following codes:

Code	Meaning
A	Homework completed to an impressive standard – Reward Points may be awarded
C	Homework completed to an acceptable standard
S	Some effort made, but the homework does not meet the expected standards
D	Homework is of a poor standard and a sanction has been applied

Online homework will be marked in accordance with the service provided within the specific software used. Its completion will be tracked, but marking codes will not be applied in books.

* Teachers may not acknowledge homework immediately within the lesson of submission as this may prove detrimental to teaching and learning.

Completing homework in school

There are opportunities to complete homework in school. This is a perfectly acceptable alternative to completing work at home, should either time or access to facilities be a limiting factor. These facilities include:

- Our Art facility is usually open at lunchtime, but periodically may be unavailable due to staff commitments.
- Our LRC is open most lunch times and serves as an access to ICT, a quiet work area or a reading area.
- Homework clubs will be published on our 'Additional Learning Opportunities' area of the website, under 'Extra Curricular'.

Roles & Responsibilities

How will the homework policy work in practice?

All students should

- record homework tasks in their planners and ensure their understanding of the tasks;
- demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the tasks set;
- complete all work set to the best of their ability;
- present homework appropriately;
- hand the work in on time.

All parents/carers should

- aim to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which students can do their homework or help students attend other places where homework can be done, such as the Library;
- make it clear to students that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress at school;
- encourage students and praise them when they have completed homework;
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are;
- check that tasks have been set in line with the homework timetable;
- sign the front of the homework booklet if you are a parent/carer of Year 7 and 8 students;
- sign the planner once a week;
- inform the school if an issue arises.

Monitoring of this Policy

The implementation of this policy will be monitored through Subject Leaders, Senior Leaders and the Governors' Standards Sub Committee.

Signed: _____ **Headteacher**

Signed: _____ **Chair of Governors**

Date: _____