



Homework Policy

Update November 2014

Introduction:

The School believes that a well-managed and purposeful homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning.

Benefits of Homework

Homework has a number of benefits for students:

- The strengthening and consolidation of learning from the classroom.
- The encouragement of independent learning skills.
- The opportunity for creative and thoughtful responses to ideas covered in class.
- The opportunity for a dialogue between students and parents / carers.
- Learning how to manage time effectively and work to set deadlines.

Good Practice when setting homework

Effective homework should:

- Provide an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their independent understanding and skills.
- Consolidate work done in class, not merely consist of completing work not finished in class (unless the nature of class work is project-based where manageable targets would be expected or where the task is too long to complete in class).
- Arise from a well-planned Scheme of Learning.
- Be appropriate to the ability of the individual.
- Be varied in nature, both in terms of outcome (e.g. projects, essays, multimedia, research) and in terms of skills developed (e.g. knowledge consolidation, applying ideas, evaluating viewpoints).

Homework Timetable

The Government no longer provides guidance on the quantity of homework which should be set. For Key Stages 3 and 4, subject homework is allocated to specific days of the week to ensure, as far as possible, that there is an equitable spread across the two week timetable.

At the start of the term form tutors share the homework timetable with their group, ensuring that students understand the arrangements. The homework timetable is also published on the school website.

The Role of the Teacher

- To communicate the expectations of the homework policy to learners in their classes.
- It is important that teaching staff set homework according to the homework timetable. In exceptional circumstances staff should explain carefully to students why homework has to be moved to another day.
- To set homework using the school's electronic Show My Homework system, ensuring any additional resources are in a file format which will be accessible to students without need for dedicated software e.g. by converting files to PDF rather than MS Office files.
- Ensure a hard copy of homework set using Show My Homework is available for students who are unable to access the system electronically.
- Teachers (supported by a LSA where applicable) should check that a record of the homework set is accurately recorded within student planners where necessary.
- Teachers should be as explicit as possible (e.g. when the work is due in, expected outcomes / model examples).
- On the rare occasions homework is not set, this should be recorded within the planner.

- Other than in exceptional circumstances, homework should not be expected to be completed for the next day.
- Feedback on Homework should be in accordance with the whole school Marking policy.

The Role of the Student

- To record homework set in their planner.
- To complete homework by the deadline set.
- To inform teachers if they are unable to access Show My Homework and therefore will require a hard copy of homework tasks.

Monitoring homework

The monitoring of homework is the responsibility of the classroom teacher, supported by the Head of Department / Faculty, Form Tutors and House Achievement Coordinators.

Form Tutor:

- to ensure that students are filling out HW planners appropriately and that planners are being signed by parents.

Head of Department / Faculty:

- To ensure that there are clear homework tasks identified within the schemes of work and they are consistently applied where appropriate.
- To monitor that homework is being set by members of the curriculum team in accordance with the homework timetable and that subsequent work is being marked and returned within a reasonable timeframe.

House Achievement Coordinator:

- To check any emerging patterns related to a lack of HW being set and liaise with relevant Head of Department / Faculty.

Failure to complete homework

Failure to complete homework should lead to the application of the school's behaviour code and a SIMS entry of the action taken should be recorded.

Parental Involvement

Homework is an opportunity for parents to show an active interest in the work of their child. The importance of homework will be made clear at Progress Evenings. Parents should monitor the amount of homework that being set, sign student planners on a weekly basis, and are invited to use this to maintain a dialogue between parents, teachers and learners as appropriate. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in helping students organise their time and work as efficiently as possible, rather than just insisting that it is done.

The Role of ICT

ICT is playing a greater role within homework, including the use of Show My Homework and the internet. Pupils should ensure that, where necessary, they plan to make use of access to ICT resources within school. Pupils should also ensure that they organise their time sufficiently to manage their own ICT needs within deadlines. For example, allowing time to print work successfully in advance of a lesson.

Policy agreed by Governing Body on.....

Review date.....