



## Homework Policy

The School believes that a good, well-managed 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:

- Be planned to ensure effective feedback and **protect both teacher and student workload**: What type of homework: written or verbal outcome? How will feedback be given? When will feedback be given?
- Be **varied in nature**, both in terms of outcome (e.g. verbal, projects, essays, multimedia, research) and in terms of skills developed (e.g. knowledge consolidation, applying ideas, evaluating viewpoints).
- Provide an opportunity for pupils to demonstrate their **independent understanding and skills**. Homework should 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.

### The amount of homework set

In Key Stage 3, homework is set once per timetable cycle. In reality this means one meaningful homework per fortnight with meaningful feedback given. There are a few exceptions to this such as IT where there are fewer periods per cycle and homework is set less frequently.

In Key Stage 4, homework is set weekly. Key Stage 5 homework is set as required and appropriate.

There is no longer Government guidance on the quantity of homework which should be set; however, SLT give guidance about the quantity of homework which should be set which is subsequently agreed between Heads of Department and the SLT link. In principle, Year 7 should spend no more than one hour a fortnight per subject on homework, rising to up to two hours per subject per fortnight in Year 11. In the Sixth Form, five hours per subject per week is recommended.

## Homework Timetable

For Key Stages 3 and 4, the member of SLT with responsibility allocates subject homework to days of the week to ensure, as far as possible, that there is an equitable spread across the two-week timetable. Key Stage 5 students are expected to manage their workload in liaison with teaching staff as appropriate.

At the start of the term, form tutors share the homework timetable with their group, ensuring that students understand the arrangements.

## The Role of the Teacher

Feedback on Homework should be in accordance with the whole school Assessment and Feedback policy. **Where fuller feedback is delayed the teacher should still check the work has been completed on time.** This may be achieved by simply opening the book at the homework for a visual check around the room.

- 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 had to be moved to another day.
- Teachers (supported by a TA where applicable) should check that homework is accurately recorded within student planners.
- 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.

## The Role of the Learner

- To record homework set in their planner.
- To complete homework by the deadline set.

## Monitoring Homework

The monitoring of homework is the responsibility of the classroom teacher, supported by the HoD, form tutors and AHOYs.

*Form Tutor:* to ensure that students are filling out HW planners appropriately and these are being signed by parents.

*Head of Department:* to ensure that there are clear homework tasks identified within the Schemes of Learning, and they are consistently applied where appropriate. To monitor that homework is being set by members of the curriculum team, and that subsequent work is being marked and returned within a reasonable timeframe.

*Academic Head of Year:* to provide a snapshot of homework on a *half termly* basis – this should equate to approximately fifteen per cent of any one year group and should cut across all forms. AHOYs to check that planners are being signed by the form tutor. Any emerging patterns related to a lack of HW being set should be discussed with the HoD following a meeting with the SLT Year link.

## **Failure to complete homework**

Failure to complete homework should lead to the application of The School's Positive Behaviour Code, a mark of zero and a SIMS entry of the action taken should be recorded.

## **The Junior Department**

The Junior Department manage homework in line with The School's Homework Policy.

JD1 are usually expected to spend twenty minutes on homework twice a week, and JD2 twenty-five minutes, four times a week. The timetable for homework is managed by the Head of Department and pupils record homework in their Homework Book. Homework which is not submitted on the due date is completed during the break time of the same day.

## **Parental Involvement**

Homework is a great opportunity for parents to show an active interest in the work of their son or daughter. The importance of homework will be made clear at Information Evenings for Year 3 and for Year 6 to Year 7 transition, along with the school prospectus. Parents should monitor the amount of homework that is being set and sign student planners on a weekly basis. 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 taking a larger role in homework, including the use of School Email 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.

## **Homework Support**

Several Curriculum Areas offer homework support clubs and mentoring opportunities. Learning Support offers assistance for SEN pupils.