

Appendix 1

Maths Homework at Willingdon Community School

Parents frequently ask about how they can best support their child with maths homework. Please see below for guidance. If parents require further information, please contact your child's maths teacher who will be happy to help.

Maths homework is set once a week, and students are given one week to complete the work.

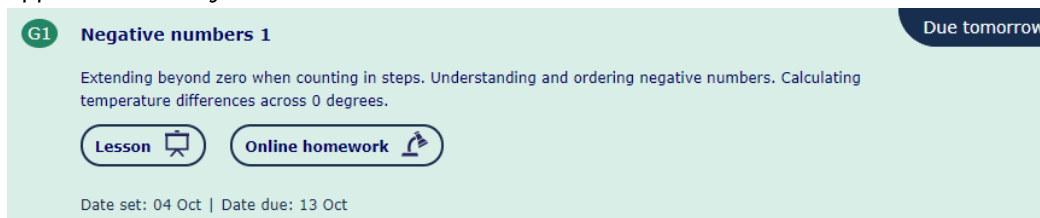
Online resources such as mymaths, mathswatch and method maths are generally used, since they mark the answers immediately, and provide resources and lessons to support the students.

In keeping with the school policy, we aim to set work that should take around 30 minutes in KS3, rising to around 90 minutes in KS4. However, it is very difficult to gauge exactly how long an assignment will take, as this can vary dramatically between different students. We welcome feedback in cases where a student is spending a very long time on maths homework.

To be beneficial, homework needs to be completed to a good standard. The expectation is that students will be able to achieve an outcome of at least 70% in maths homework. Achievement points are awarded for reaching this standard, and for exceeding it.

While tasks are carefully chosen so that this target is attainable, it is inevitable that some students may sometimes find it difficult to complete work to at least 70%. While marking their first solutions may enable a student to see what has gone wrong straight away, we do not envisage them making multiple attempts at a task without first seeking to improve their understanding. We suggest that they may do this by taking the following steps:

- 1) Go through the lesson associated with the HW task. This is available by clicking the *Lesson* button that appears on the *My Homework* tab next to the *Online homework* button.



- 2) Mathswatch tasks have an embedded video tutorial, but the site can also be used to search for a clip based on a keyword or phrase – try using the title of the homework.
- 3) Ask your maths teacher for help. This could be done by email, in the Google classroom chatstream, or in person. You need to state precisely which part of which homework is proving difficult. The teacher may provide help by directing a student to some online support, by producing a video tutorial, by addressing the issue in class, or through some additional tuition at break or lunchtime.

In order to access the support described above, it is vital that students make an attempt at the work soon after it is set. If they leave it until the last minute, and find it difficult, there is little we can do to help before the deadline.

If maths homework is not attempted by the deadline, a teacher may issue a 30-minute detention after school. When the homework is completed subsequently, this is not grounds to remove the detention.

If homework has not been completed to the required standard, and it is clear that the student has taken the steps described above to seek help, then a teacher may offer an extension and direct students to attend some additional tuition at break or lunchtime. If this offer is declined, or if a student has not taken any of the steps above to get help before the deadline, a 30-minute detention after school is an appropriate consequence.

If each of the steps above have been followed and problems persist, the department would strongly advise that parents contact their child's maths teacher to discuss any concerns or answer any questions that parents may have.