

Homework Policy

Homework is a valuable and essential part of school work, which contributes to raising achievement by providing a variety of worthwhile learning experiences additional to those provided in the class room.

Homework:

- provides opportunities for students to work independently and to take responsibility for organising their work;
- helps students recognise the link between good study habits and higher standards of achievement;
- checks that students have understood classwork;
- consolidates or extends work covered in class;
- prepares for future lessons;
- extends curriculum time to enable Key Stage 3 and GCSE syllabuses to be covered;
- strengthens liaison between home and school.

Principles:

- a range of homework tasks should be set as appropriate to individual subject areas, including written and reading tasks, learning, researching, conducting simple experiments or making models, sketching and designing, and carrying out surveys and interviews; these should be included in departmental Schemes of Work;
- homework practice should be consistent across the department;
- the principles of differentiation which operate in the classroom should also apply to homework tasks, so that both the less able and the more able are given opportunities to achieve at the highest levels they are capable of; it should be borne in mind that set 4 students may find it very difficult to work independently at home on many tasks, particularly written ones;
- the same high standards of work – content and presentation – should be expected from homework as from classwork;
- written homework, where appropriate, should be marked and graded according to the school's assessment policy.

Timing & Quantity:

Key Stage 3 students

Key Stage 3 students should expect to be set homework every week in the following subjects: **English, mathematics, science** and **French** and fortnightly in geography and history. Homework will be set when appropriate in art, music, IT, design and technology and ethics. Students should therefore expect to have homework to do in one or two subjects most evenings.

There is no formal homework timetable with specific evenings allocated to specific subjects, since students in any one tutor group belong to a number of different teaching groups being taught a particular subject at different times of the week. Students therefore need to be helped to see the importance of planning their time sensibly, so that work does not accumulate, and deadlines are not missed. Adequate time should always be allowed for completion of homework. Requiring homework to be done for the next day should be avoided as far as possible, as students may have family or extra-curricular commitments on certain nights. The amount of time spent on homework will vary considerably between individual students, and will be influenced by differing levels of ability and commitment. It is therefore not possible to give students more than an approximate expected duration for a homework task. Students in Years 7 and 8 should expect to spend around 30 minutes per homework on each of the core subjects – English, maths and science – and up to 30 minutes on each of the rest. In Year 9, students should expect to spend a maximum of one hour per week on the core subjects, and 30 minutes on each of the rest.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

At **Key Stage 4**, most students currently study 9 or 10 GCSE subjects and should be set approximately one hour per subject per week for homework.

Students should therefore expect to have the equivalent of approximately two hours' homework per evening over the week. This should increase in Year 11.

Homework in KS4 is often likely to extend over several weeks and students should be expected to take an increasing level of responsibility for planning how and when they will tackle such work. Subject teachers should ensure that such work is monitored weekly, to ensure that progress is being made and that final deadlines will be met. Should students fall behind, the sanctions outlined below should be implemented without delay.

Procedures/Monitoring

- The school has invested in Show My Homework (SMH) which is the system that should be used by all teachers to set and publish homework so that it is accessible to be viewed by parents and students remotely.
- In addition, in the event of students not being able to access SMH for any reasons, planners are used for recording the homework tasks set in the lesson. Subject teachers should ensure that the task is explained clearly (and written on the IWB), with the date for handing in, and that adequate time is allowed to note the details down. Work can be set at any time during the lesson, at an appropriate moment;
- The planners of those who require help with this should be checked, or the teacher or Teaching Assistant should write in the planner for the student;
- Concerns about the standard of homework, or non-completion can be transmitted to parents through the planner, or by telephone or e-mail. **All parents have a 'parent version' of the school's homework policy;**
- Tutors should check planners weekly, to ensure that homework is being noted down, and done, and that students are getting their parents to sign the planner;
- A record of the homework tasks set is available on SMH (from December 2016). This provides evidence of departmental practice, for example should parents query our homework policy or require details of what homework has been set over a certain period of time.

Sanctions

- The planner can be used to inform parents of any failure to complete or hand in homework; the new deadline should be clearly stated, and any sanction to be imposed if this is not met;
- Students can also be given a break-time detention, or an after-school departmental detention. Parents are informed of the latter in writing, using a standard electronic proforma. If the problem persists, parents may be invited to school to discuss the situation;
- All departments should make use of the full range of sanctions, applying them in the way that best suits their individual departmental circumstances (availability of rooms at lunchtime, size of department, frequency with which students are taught, types of homework set). There is currently, therefore, no whole-school policy on homework sanctions.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of Policy

DoLs and LoLs will be responsible for ensuring that agreed departmental procedures for setting homework and implementing sanctions are followed. The Governing Body will review all curriculum policy documents every second school year.