



Homework Policy

Appropriate homework has to be set on a regular basis, as it is an important aspect of every student's personal study.

The main purpose of homework is to encourage the student to develop their skills in and their understanding of the subject. Homework should also provide opportunities for students to develop their knowledge, skills and interest in a variety of ways.

The homework that is set should be:

- (a) Different from class work.
- (b) Subject orientated.
- (c) Interesting.
- (d) Challenging.
- (e) Able to be completed in the specified time.

Homework should give students:

- (i) The opportunity for fun activities in and around the subject.
- (ii) The opportunity to use the knowledge and skills that they have.
- (iii) The opportunity to reinforce skills and knowledge that they have learned.
- (iv) The opportunity to develop new skills.

Homework must never be "*completion of class work*" nor should it be "*read ahead or prepare for next lesson*". The activities must **stand-alone**.

Completion of class work and preparation work may also be set for pupils to do but this is not homework.

Evidence from research: Sutton Trust

Homework

What is it?

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of class, with the normal expectation that it will be completed at home. Common homework activities may be reading or preparing for work to be done in class, or practising and completing things already taught or started. It may include extended activities to develop pupils' inquiry skills or work such as revision for tests and exams.

How effective is it?

It is certainly the case that schools whose pupils do homework tend to be successful schools. However it is less clear that the homework is the reason why they are successful. A number of reviews and meta-analyses have looked at homework to explore this issue. There is some evidence that when homework is used as an intervention it is effective in improving students' attainment (an effect size of 0.60). Overall the benefits are likely to be more modest.

Impact summary: + 5 months (effect size 0.36)

How secure is the evidence?

Homework has been extensively studied, both by looking at the connection (correlation) between homework and how well schools do, and by studying what happens when homework is introduced.

Strength of the evidence: ☆ ☆ ☆

What are the costs?

There are few costs associated with homework, though there are implications for staff time.

Cost summary: £

How applicable is it?

The research strongly suggests that it is more valuable at secondary school level and much less effective for children of primary school age. There is also an optimum level of between 1-2 hours per school day (longer for older pupils), but the effects tail off as the time students spend increases. Pupils also benefit from feedback on homework and effective integration with teaching in lessons.

There does seem to be some evidence that participation of pupils in homework can lead to improvements in attainment.

It is key then that we engage pupils in doing homework for improvement not merely because we have to do it.

Appropriate Tasks

Appropriate homework should be set in accordance with the homework timetable set out below and, when the homework has been handed in by the set deadline, it should be marked and returned promptly.

Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4	Key Stage 5
<p>Core Subjects Homework should be weekly</p> <p>Time expected: Year 7 20 mins Year 8 25 mins Year 9 30 mins</p>	<p>For each GCSE (equivalent) subject 1 hour per week</p> <p>Proportionately less for short courses etc.</p>	<p>For each GCE (or equivalent) subject 2 hours per week.</p> <p>The same for A2 or As.</p>
<p>Foundation Subjects Once per cycle with the same timings.</p>		
<p>Activities: Literacy activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learning spelling of key words ▪ Reading with a comprehension exercise. <p>Research or preparation</p> <p>Classwork follow up</p> <p>Catch up or copy up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of the 'state' or presentation of pupils books once a term 	<p>Activities: As for Key Stage 3</p> <p>Revision Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summarise a topic ▪ Produce a spider diagram <p>Examination question</p> <p>Peer assessment activity</p>	<p>Activities:</p> <p>Literacy activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Learning spelling of key words ▪ Reading with a comprehension exercise. <p>Research or preparation</p> <p>Classwork follow up</p> <p>Catch up or copy up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assessment of the 'state' or presentation of pupils books once a term

Homework Timetables

YEAR 7 HOMEWORK TIMETABLE	
WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Homework will be set in: English Mathematics Science Drama History Information Technology Modern Foreign Languages Music Physical Education	Homework will be set in: English Mathematics Science Art Design and Technology Geography Religious Education Welsh.

YEAR 8 HOMEWORK TIMETABLE	
WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Homework will be set in: English Mathematics Science Art Design and Technology Geography Religious Education Welsh	Homework will be set in: English Mathematics Science Drama History Information Technology Modern Foreign Languages Music Physical Education

YEAR 9 HOMEWORK TIMETABLE	
WEEK 1	WEEK 2
Homework will be set in: English Mathematics Science Drama History Information Technology Modern Foreign Languages Music Physical Education	Homework will be set in: English Mathematics Science Art Design and Technology Geography Religious Education Welsh.

What happens if homework has not been completed?

Responsibilities within Departments

Stage 1 **The first stage of action must be carried out by the class teacher.**

For an initial or 'one off' occurrence possible actions could be:

- Ask the student to complete by next lesson
- Record in the planner for parent's signature.
- Arrange for it to be done during lunchtime.
- Record the homework as not done in the comment on the SIMS register.

Stage 2 **For further occurrences (Head of Area/class teacher):**

- Refer to Head of Department (HoD) for comment in planner and perhaps a detention.
- The next homework may be required to be done during lunchtime before the deadline to ensure it is done on time.
- Record as a comment on register

Pastoral support

The pastoral support team should be regularly looking for comments on records about lack of homework.

Things which may be worth focusing on:

- Is the lack of homework in one subject?
- Is it across several subjects?
- Why hasn't it been done?
- Does the pupil need support to complete homework in advance of the deadline?
- Have or do parents need to be informed?
- Are there underlying issues which need addressing?

Remember, homework is a tool to improve learning. It has often been seen to be negative and raising it to a positive for both learner and teacher is what we are after.

POLICY NAME: *Homework Policy*

REVIEWED BY: *Behaviour & Wellbeing Working Party*

DATE REVIEWED: *25/02/15*

DATE TO FGB: *26/03/15*

SIGNED: *Debbie Lloyd*

PRINT NAME: *Mrs Debbie Lloyd (Chair of Governors)*

DATE NEXT DUE TO BE REVIEWED *February 2016*