



Homework Policy

Definition of Homework

In this policy 'homework' refers to any work, research or other activities related to learning which students are asked to do outside lesson time.

Purpose

Commitment to the school's homework policy is an important part of the home school agreement designed to improve student motivation, progress and attainment and parental support is key to successful outcomes.

Ofsted

Advice from the Government is that 'homework is important at all stages in a child's education and can extend the challenge open to the student ensuring teaching time is used to maximum effect'.

Aims

The aims of homework are to:

- ensure learning in the classroom is consolidated or reinforced.
- extend learning, for example through additional reading, enquiry or research tasks.
- encourage students to develop the study skills, confidence and self motivation needed to learn effectively on their own. These skills are essential for life long learning.
- enable students to manage particular demands effectively such as preparation for tests and exams, GCSE's.
- encourage a partnership in learning between student, parent and teacher.
- develop independent revision habits which will be vital to success in external GCSE examinations.

Expectations of the Homework Policy

This homework policy is part of the wider partnership between student, parent and school and to be effective it is essential all concerned are clear about what is expected of them.

The school is expected to:

- provide a homework programme and make it available to students and parents. The schedule is posted on the school website. (see attachment).
- ensure homework activities are appropriate and manageable in the homework time allocated for the students age and ability.
- guide students in age appropriate resources which are suitable for revision activity.

- ensure the homework task and date for completion are clearly written down in the school planner.
- provide student planners which forms tutors monitor and sign weekly.
- ensure homework is marked or assessed and feedback given as appropriate.
provide information on missed homework on the school progress reports.
- provide a homework club for students who experience difficulties in managing homework organisation.
- provide intervention for students lacking independent learning skills.
- have high expectations of students in completing homework and apply procedures for non completion of homework consistently.

* Please see supporting document 'Homework Guidelines for Staff' for specific responsibilities.

The student is expected to:

- write the homework task and the date for the completion in the student planners. Students should ensure they understand the task before leaving the lesson.
- ensure all homework is completed on time, brought to class and completed to the best of the students ability.
- if required, seek support from class teacher/intervention staff before the hand in date.
- adhere to homework guidance for students (on school website).
- attend support sessions/detentions when required.

The parent is requested to:

- support the homework policy by encouraging and supporting students in their homework and signing the student planners every week.
- provide an area where homework can be completed effectively by the student.
- notify the school if there is a reason why homework could not be completed.
- support the school's procedures for non or unsatisfactory completion of homework.
- encourage students to revise regularly so knowledge is consolidated. Revision should not be viewed as only necessary prior to an assessment.
- support the school's actions in cases where intervention has become necessary.

The Governors are expected to:

- ensure the Homework Policy is part of the Home School Agreement and is reviewed and monitored as part of the wider learning and teacher policy for the school.

Sanctions

When homework is not completed the following sanctions should be consistently applied:

Stage 1 - Departmental detention: (Homework support)

Each area will run its own detention at lunchtime or after school.

Students who would be required to attend two detentions on the same day would have to attend one and do the other one the following week. The homework may be done beforehand but the detention must still be served.

Stage 2 - Curriculum Leaders (CL) / Subject Leaders Detention

Failure to attend a Departmental detention would automatically result in a 30 minute CL detention. A text message will be sent and information will be recorded in student's planners.

Stage 3 - Year Achievement Managers (YAM) Detention

Failure to attend a CL detention automatically results in a YAM detention for 30 mins on a designated night in a designated room for consistency. A phone call home will be required and recorded in students planners.

Stage 4 – Senior Leadership Team (SLT) Detention

On rare occasions where students have failed to conform with the above detentions, they will be required to attend a 60 minute detention with a member of SLT. A letter should go home and a phone call. A member of the office team will collect students at the end of period 5 and escort them to their detention.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Credits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a curriculum letter or postcard may be sent home or a phone call home.

Internal Monitoring Procedures

Students

Homework diaries will be checked by:

1. The Form Tutor (weekly)
2. The Year Achievement Manager (sampled every few weeks)
3. The Senior Leader Team (sampled termly)

Subject Staff

1. Will keep a record of homework tasks as part of a lesson plan.
2. Make the record available to the Curriculum Leader.

Intervention Team

- Year
1. Provide homework tracking data weekly for Form Tutors, Curriculum Leaders, Achievement Managers and SLT.
 2. To liaise with Year Achievement Managers to identify students requiring support with homework.
 3. To coordinate lunchtime and after school support for homework.

Curriculum Leader

1. Will sample homework records.
2. Will look at examples of homework and talk to students about the impact of homework.
3. Will ensure all members of the department are setting appropriate homework in line with the homework timetable.

Senior Leader Team

1. Will sample homework records through curriculum review and CL's.
2. Will sample examples of work and talk to students to ensure homework is effective.
3. Will review school policy annually.

Student Support

Where students are finding difficulty in completing homework on time and to a good standard, a range of support mechanisms will be put in place to help strong independent learning habits.

Homework Report

Where a student misses 2 pieces of homework in a school week they will automatically be monitored by their form tutor. This will involve a daily discussion of homework tasks and support in organising time. A letter will be sent home informing parents.

Where this proves unsuccessful in resolving homework issues, the YAM may refer the student to the intervention team for compulsory homework support. Parents will receive a phone call from the intervention team at this point.

Please see:

Homework timetable
Guidelines for staff