

Homework Policy

Introduction

Homework is an essential part of our school approach to helping pupils learn, think and work effectively.

Purposes

- Encouraging pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively as independent learners;
- Consolidating and reinforcing understanding, skills and attributes developed at school;
- Extending school learning through a range of learning activities sustainable in a beyond the class room environment;
- Encouraging and sustaining the involvement of parents, carers and other adults in the management of pupils' learning;
- Encouraging stakeholder partnership through keeping partners involved and informed about the work pupils are doing; and
- Managing particular demands, such as research, project work and GCSE coursework.

The school ensures that the total length of homework tasks set corresponds to the following parameters:

YEAR	TOTAL TIME SPENT ON H/W PER DAY
7	45-90 MINUTES
8	45-90 MINUTES
9	1-2 HOURS
10	1.5 – 2.5 HOURS
11	1.5 – 2.5 HOURS

The school has a whole school home work time table. Tutors must ensure that pupils record their home work time table in their planners. Parents sign planners at the end of each week and teachers check and sign planners at the start of the new week, in order to monitor the setting and completion of home work.

Teachers should write the homework on the board as early in the lesson as possible so that there is ample time for pupils to copy down the instructions on their planner. Where appropriate pupils should date, write a heading and label a home work activity, although when a course work is on going this is not always necessary.

Amount and types of home work

Guidance on amount of home work appears on home work time table. Faculties are responsible for ensuring that home work is set and marked regularly. Activities set should be varied and might include reading, investigating, research, preparing a presentation and problem solving activities. It is important, in setting home work, that all subject areas remain aware of different learning styles and include a range of activities which acknowledges how individual pupils best learn. Staff need to be responsive to those who find home work task difficult and should set appropriate home work but all pupils are expected to complete their home work, no matter what their level of ability. Home work for amore able students should involve greater challenge rather than a greater amount of work. It is the quality of the task rather than the quantity of work which is important.

Homework should be marked and returned to pupils promptly, usually within two weeks, in accordance with the school marking and assessment policy.

Monitoring homework

When collecting and marking homework teachers should keep detailed records of work set and marks

Tutors should check planners weekly.

Homework considered as part of the lesson observation process Support for homework

Study facilities are available in school to support training. In addition a number of subjects offer facilities for students to access help with homework. The learning support Faculty offers help for students. The Library can be used before and after school, as well as at lunch time on a rota basis to offer;

- Expert and willing expert and help
- Access to books;
- Access to written and other resources;
- Access to the internet;
- Access to other ICT facilities including CD-ROMS;
- Flexible access.

Parents and Homework

A homework policy is a partnership agreement between the school, the pupil and the parent/carer. Therefore, in developing the partnership, it is important that the school lays out its expectations and ensures parents/carers are clear about what these expectations are. In addition, the school, as part of the partnership, relays to parents/carers alternative provision to ensure equity.

Parents have an important role checking the planner and discussing set homework tasks but can also become actively involved in discussing pupil learning by suggesting ways of using study time at home, referring to targets agreed as part of the Academic Tutoring cycle.

What are the procedures for dealing with pupils' not doing homework?

Homework is compulsory for all students and all pupils will have signed a home school contract agreeing to complete homework. If a pupil fails to do homework teachers should use the following procedures:

- Inform tutor via planner
- Inform parents via planner
- Inform tutor for appropriate discussion to take place with pupil concerned
- Use a detention as a sanction and encouragement to a pupil to complete homework
- Send a bi-lingual (English) pro-forma letter home in persistent cases
- Invite parents of persistent offenders into school to discuss the situation.

Signed and approved by Head Teacher:

Signed and approved by School Chair of governors:

Updated: Jan 2010

Review: Jan 2012