

HOMEWORK POLICY

This review: November 2010

Homework is an integral part of the school curriculum and an essential component of all pupils' education. It helps children to become confident and independent learners and it supports their preparation for further and higher education and lifelong learning. Our aim is that children take responsibility for their own learning, that they develop into confident and committed students and that they regard homework positively as contributing to that learning. Homework enhances the work carried out in school in a range of ways including the following. It provides:

- opportunities for pupils to gain further practice in the work carried out in the classroom which will consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding;
- opportunities for pupils to develop into resilient and independent learners by attempting work without the direct support of a teacher or other pupils;
- opportunities for pupils to learn facts, vocabulary and other information more efficiently than can be achieved in timetabled lessons;
- opportunities for more general research which may not be possible within the time constraints of timetabled lessons;
- a mechanism for promoting the home – school partnership, enabling parents to appreciate what their children are learning;
- from Year 10 onwards, the additional time required for pupils and students to complete coursework or controlled assessment tasks to a high standard.

Homework should be an integral part of each department's scheme of work. Wherever possible, it should relate directly to the work underway in lessons, drawing on and contributing to the pupils' learning of the current topic being studied. The nature of homework tasks will vary according to the subject area, the year group, the abilities of the pupils in the group and the kind of work underway in lessons. The following list gives examples of tasks which may be set:

- To answer a question or questions which are set specifically as a homework task;
- To spend time contributing to a longer term project or piece of coursework or controlled assessment;
- To revise or learn vocabulary or a set of facts in preparation for a test or assessment;
- To carry out research in preparation for or as part of a piece of classwork;
- To support active revision and preparation for external and internal examinations.

Homework will not, in general, consist of finishing off a piece of classwork unless this constitutes a similar and appropriate amount of work for all pupils in the teaching group.

Use of computers and the internet

When setting homework, teachers will take account of the range of access that pupils have to computer equipment and printing facilities outside school. For example, some pupils may not have access to a computer at home or the number of people in the home trying to use a single computer restricts access.

While it may be acceptable for pupils to use the internet to find information which helps them with their homework, teachers will be sensitive to the different access that pupils may have to the internet and avoid disadvantage for those pupils who do not have access to the internet outside the school.

The management of homework

A homework timetable is issued at the start of the autumn term and is recorded in pupils' Daily Diaries on the first day of term. Teachers set homework each time their subject appears on the homework timetable. In Technology and ICT teachers set homework on a 'need to do' basis. Homework will not be set by subject teachers on days other than those given on the homework timetable and 'finish off' work will not be set outside of the homework timetable.

In Years 7 to 9, pupils will be set, on average, two homework tasks every day, each of which will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. In years 10 to 11, homework tasks will take approximately 40 minutes to complete. Pupils are advised that if a task is not completed in the set time and looks like taking significantly more time, then they should stop work and record how long they have spent on the task in their Daily Diary.

Monitoring of homework setting:

Teachers are expected to record in their planners or on a record sheet the homeworks which they set and the completion of homeworks. Heads of Department are responsible for monitoring the frequency and quality of homework set for their subject.

Procedures for pupils and students who fail to complete homework

If a pupil fails to attempt or to complete homework, the teacher may:

- give additional time for completion;
- give additional time for completion and an additional task;
- require the homework to be completed during a break or lunchtime.

If a pupils fails to complete homework on a regular basis, the teacher may:

- use an appropriate sanctions such as detention at lunchtime or after school;
- work with the relevant Head of Year to establish if there are matters out of school which are making it difficult for the pupil to complete homework;
- contact the parents or carers to work with them to support the completion of homework.

Associated policies:

Curriculum Policy

Assessment Policy

Approved by full Governors: 8 December 2010

For review – Autumn 2012