

Extended Learning (Homework) Policy

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Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education". -1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools

Homework (extended learning) is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

The school recognises that homework enhances student learning, improves achievement, and develops students' study skills and can be an important means to raise a pupil's self-esteem, as well as being an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area; However, it is not appropriate to overload pupils with a very rigid and strict policy of homework as this can be counterproductive.

Aims

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Autism Practice

Many of our pupils see a very clear distinction between home and school, often school is a place of work and home is not. We understand that for some of our pupils doing schoolwork at home can be very challenging and upsetting. To support our young people with working from home they will need careful preparation and support. Parents and carers are encouraged to use the guidance in the SPELL (<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/strategies-and-interventions/strategies-and-interventions/spell>) framework to help support our pupils. Opportunities to complete extended learning (homework) will be available each week during club time.

Expectations: When, how much and by whom?

The School recognises that homework may take many forms and may include reading, written work, observations, research and practice of other skills as appropriate. We also recognise that for some pupils, particular tasks may take longer than others, and this should be taken into consideration by staff when setting this. Therefore, it is highly likely that individual pupils will receive different extended learning tasks to each other. This also applies to where extended learning is personalised according to need.

Key Stage 1

Weekly reading at home.

Other projects and homework will be given over the term.

Key Stage 2

Weekly reading and spellings at home.

Weekly homework tasks in Maths and English.

Other projects and homework will be given three times a year (Autumn 1, Spring 1 and Summer 1).

Key Stage 3

Homework should be set as defined in the table below:

Area	Subject	Frequency	Length of Time
Linguistics	English	Weekly	30 minutes
Mathematical	Maths	Weekly	30 minutes
Scientific	Science	Week 1	15 minutes
	PSHCE	Week 2	
	RSE	Week 3	
Creative and Aesthetic	Performing Arts	Week 1	15 minutes
	Art	Week 3	15 minutes
Technical	Design Technology	Week 1	15 minutes
	IT	Week 2	
Human and Social	History	Week 1	15 minutes
	Geography	Week 2	
	Religious Education	Week 3	
Physical	PE	N/A	N/A
	Adventure Learning		

Key Stage 4

For GCSE subjects, at least 30 minutes of homework should be set for each subject weekly.

All teachers will establish and maintain a high expectation that homework will be done by everyone and that failure to do so will have an impact on learning.

Incentives

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

Rewards can be based on the TVS Principles of thoughtful, valued and safe.

Where appropriate, homework - could be included in display work. TVS Shields and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may also be sent home.

Responsibilities

The role of the student:

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary.

3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor:

1. To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
2. To see that homework is being set and recorded.
3. To check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian.
4. To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher:

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set homework according to the timetable.
2. Provide the stimulus.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
5. Mark and return all homework promptly.
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Parents, Form Tutor and Senior Leadership Team, as appropriate, when problems arise.

Homework is an important aspect of our home-school partnership, if parents feel the work set is it not appropriate, they should contact the school. Where possible, pupils should be involved in setting, managing and monitoring homework. Homework should motivate pupils in their desire to achieve and become more skilful, knowledgeable and better prepared for the world outside school.

Monitoring & Evaluation:

The monitoring of Extended Learning (homework) and record keeping will be completed in all subject areas. This will be monitored strategically through work scrutiny as well as planning reviews. Pupils work will be marked and feedback will be given in accordance with the school marking, assessing and feedback policy.