Homework Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body on 07/06/2022

June 2022
HOMEWORK

INTENT

The school has a policy which recognises the importance of homework. We aim to encourage confident, autonomous learners who develop independent skills of enquiry, evaluation and creativity. To support and reinforce this, we will deliver an effective, well-managed homework programme, which helps students to develop the skills and attitudes required for successful, life-long learning. The homework programme is an integral part of the curriculum, systematically differentiated to target different learning needs and abilities, to aid student progress. Regular setting of homework aims to encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to become effective independent learners.

It is also important because it is the main channel by which education can become a shared responsibility between home and school, allowing parents and carers to support their children as well as being informed of their programmes of study.

Homework is an integral part of the programmes of study being undertaken. A timetable will be produced for all students which will show the allocation of homework for lessons.

Homework may be required for the following day/week/month (in terms of coursework). There are, however, occasions when work will need to be completed before the next stage can be taught, and it will be necessary for students to complete this work on the evening it is set and for teachers to mark it.

As a general guide:
- Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8, 9) can expect approximately 30 mins homework per day
- Key Stage 4 (Years 10, 11) can expect approximately 1 ½ hours homework per day.
- Key Stage 5 (Years 12, 13) can expect at least 2 ½ hours per day.

AIMS

Homework should:
- Develop the ability to work independently;
- Provide opportunities for demonstrating understanding and consolidation of work done in class;
  Develop skills of personal organisation, time management, revision and study skills;
- Encourage an ethos of high achievement and self-motivation towards academic progress
- Encourage independence and promote academic research

It could be in the form of:
- An extension to the work completed in class and which allows the next stage of learning to take place.
- Revision tasks to reinforce classroom learning
- Electronic revision such as activities set on platforms such as Senecca, GCSE Pod, or the Oak Academy.
- Scaffolded work to support pupils encountering difficulties.
- Extension work to challenge more able pupils.
- Revision to recap prior learning or for an assessment.
- An extension of classwork to encourage good learning habits.
- An evaluation of teaching and learning.
RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of each student:

- Ensure that they are able to log in to Show My Homework to monitor the homework that is set for them.
- To record the details of homework set with the deadline clearly stated.
- Record how homework is to be submitted (either in class or electronically through mediums such as Show My Homework or Google Classroom).
- To ensure that the homework task is fully understood.
- To organise out-of-school time to ensure that homework is completed to the best of their ability.
- To submit all homework by the deadline set by the teacher.
- To seek help from teachers independently if needed.

It is the responsibility of parents and carers:

- To monitor homework set and the completion of their child’s homework through the Show My Homework app.
- To support their child in completing the homework by providing a quiet study area wherever possible.
- To check that adequate time and attention to detail is spent on homework tasks.
- To contact the school if there are any concerns regarding their child’s homework.

It is the responsibility of teachers:

- To set homework according to the Whole School Homework timetable. Homework should be recorded on Show My Homework no later than the day of the lesson as well as ensuring that a note of the homework is recorded in the student planner.
- To devise homework tasks to complement or extend, not just complete, knowledge, skills and understanding learnt in class.
- To ensure that homework is appropriately differentiated for all students, taking into consideration baseline data as well as different learning styles.
- To ensure that homework tasks set are fully understood by all students, with clear expectations and deadlines set.
- To ensure that students take note of the homework task correctly in their planner, including the subject and deadline.
- To ensure that homework is regularly marked and assessed in accordance with the school’s Assessment Policy, informing students what skills they have attained and how they can further improve their knowledge, skills and understanding.
- To keep records of homework set, grades/marks and effort grades attained.
- To monitor the completion of homework and use rewards and sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy accordingly.

It is the responsibility of each Area Advisor:

- To ensure that homework is an integral part of their curriculum, specified in schemes of work and lesson plans.
- To ensure that homework is appropriate in quality and quantity for all ages and abilities through regular planner and book monitoring and analysis of Show My Homework data.
- To ensure that this is consistently applied by all members of the area.
- To support staff in line with school policy in the event of a student persistently not doing homework.
- To address the issue of staff in their Area not setting homework in line with the Whole School Homework timetable and/or staff not following Marking Policy detailed in the Assessment Policy when grading student work.
- Provide departmental guidance on appropriate homework tasks and encourage the sharing of resources among teachers.
- To suggest workload friendly homework activities such as self-marking revision tasks on websites such as Seneca learning or the Oak Academy.

It is the responsibility of the Senior Leadership Team:

- To monitor that the homework policy is being consistently applied.
- To monitor the quality of homework set through lesson observations, work scrutiny and Area Review.
- To review the policy annually with their Area teams and ensure feedback to the leadership group is clear.
- To use Show My Homework as an analysis tool to evaluate the strengths of the homework set across the curriculum, as well as a tool to evaluate student and parent engagement.

It is the responsibility of Governors:

- To annually review the Curriculum Policy and homework policy.
- To discuss with students on governors visits the impact of the homework policy on learning

IMPLEMENTATION

Students completing homework:

In order to raise the profile of homework and motivate students, teachers and tutors should ensure that those students who regularly submit homework of a good standard should be given recognition through the rewards system. In addition, teachers should ensure they are showcasing examples of good homework and linking directly to how homework enhances student progress. Homework should be displayed in classrooms whenever possible. Achievement points should be awarded where warranted leading to/contributing to the awarding of certificates in assemblies, further enhancing the profile and importance of homework in the school.

Students failing to submit homework:

It is the responsibility of all teachers to inform parents/carers if a student has failed to hand in a homework assignment. This could be a note sent home, a phone-call or a letter, in accordance with the School policy. The school’s detention procedures should not be used until the class teacher has organised an opportunity for the student to attend a teacher detention to complete the task set. It is also the responsibility of teachers/areas to put in place systems whereby persistent offenders catch up homework at lunch-time or after school. Letters should be sent home and parents should be invited to the school when the completion of homework is a particular problem.

Students will ensure that they:

- Copy accurately the homework details and note the date the work is due to be handed in.
- Do their best with each piece of work. If some of the homework is too difficult, try to obtain help from teachers or parents or a fellow student.
- Whenever possible talk to parents or teachers or mentors about their progress and aspirations.
Parents are asked:

- To log in to and use their Show My Homework account to support their child(ren) by monitoring the homework that has been set for them.
- To help their child to organise his or her time to their best advantage so that homework is not left to the last minute or even forgotten. It is often best to give children a short period to ‘unwind’ after the school day before they start their homework.
- Try to provide suitable working conditions at home.
- To take an active interest in their child’s work at home rather than just insisting that it is done. This sustained, active interest can make a huge difference to the quality of work produced and their attitude towards homework and eventually their achievements in public examinations.
- To give help, if required, but not to do the work for their child.
- Not to let their child do too much or get upset about a piece of work he or she is finding difficult.
- To use judgement as to when to intervene and say that it is time to stop working on a piece of homework; we all want what is best for the children. PLEASE tell us if there is a problem.

MONITORING

Homework is monitored by:

- Tutors
- Class teachers
- Area Advisors (through lesson observations, learning walks, Area Review and book scrutinies)
- The Senior Leadership Team (through lesson observations, learning walks, Area Review and book scrutinies)

In order to maximise the potential of students completing and submitting their homework on time, the following guidelines should be used:

- Homework tasks to be introduced during the beginning stages of the lesson (where possible) and referred to throughout. This will raise the profile of the importance of homework, as well as allow the teacher to deal with any misconceptions, and check that students have recorded necessary details accurately.
- Details of the task must be written, not delivered verbally as well as being recorded on Show My Homework no later than the day of the lesson.
- Students need to be informed of the assessment objectives by which their work will be graded.
- Students should be encouraged to proof-read their work and correct before submitting their work.
- Opportunities should be taken to allow for self and peer assessment of homework, using clear student friendly assessment criteria.
- Expectations of the task need to be made explicit to the students:
  - ie form (graph / diagram / leaflet / diary / list)
  - text type (review / report / instruction / explanation / analysis / evaluation)
  - audience (who is it for? age group / gender etc)
  - length of task (e.g 250 words)

In order to help students who may not have space, quiet or facilities at home, or who may need special help:

- The SEN department run a homework club
- The Resource Centre is open each morning, during breaks and lunchtime and after school for students to work on homework/coursework tasks.