

## **HOMEWORK POLICY**

*Last update : May 2018*

Homework is an integral part of the school curriculum and an essential component of all students' 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 students to gain further practice in the work carried out in the classroom which will consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding;
- opportunities for students to develop into resilient and independent learners by attempting work without the direct support of a teacher or other students;
- opportunities for students 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 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 students' 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 students 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 students in the teaching group.

### Use of computers and the internet

When setting homework, teachers will take account of the range of access that students have to computer equipment and printing facilities outside school. For example, some students 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 students to use the internet to find information which helps them with their homework, teachers will be sensitive to the different access that students may have to the internet and avoid disadvantage for those students 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 for Years 7-11 to students and parents. Teachers set homework each time their subject appears on the homework timetable. 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, students 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. Students 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 planner.

All homework tasks must be posted on the Show My Homework site. Each homework task must be shared with students and explained in the lesson prior to the task being set. Paper copies of any resources will be available for students in case they cannot access the resources via the Show My Homework site

Teachers must ensure that any resources that are **publicly** shared on the Show My Homework site are not subject to copyright restrictions.

#### Monitoring of homework setting:

Teachers will be able to keep a record their homework tasks on the Show My Homework site. Heads of Department are responsible for monitoring the frequency and quality of homework set for their subject. This is possible by accessing the teachers' and subjects' tasks on the Show My Homework site. The Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum) analyses termly reports produced by Show My homework to check for the frequency of homework being set. A part of the SMT lesson observations is the checking of the quality of homework set.

#### Procedures for students who fail to complete homework

If a student 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 student 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 student to complete homework;
- contact the parents or carers to work with them to support the completion of homework.

Associated policies:

Curriculum Policy

Assessment and Reporting Policy

*Discussed by Teaching and Learning committee: May 2018*

*Approved by full Governing Body: May 2018*