



HOMework POLICY AND PRACTICE

This Policy will be reviewed annually.

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Version	Date	Amendments
V0	23/11/2021	Annual review and update.
V1	22/11/2022	Annual review – deferred to March 2023 LGB meeting.
V2	21/11/2023	Annual review, updated to include use of Edulink.

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Vision: Why do we think homework is important?

The ability to think and work independently is an integral skill necessary for any young person entering the modern workplace. It is also essential for their emotional and mental wellbeing. Young people need to be confident that they know how to organise themselves to meet deadlines, that they can be resourceful in finding and assimilating information and that they can do tasks without adult supervision. Students who have these skills are more confident, more relaxed and better prepared when they sit their exams and consequently get the best grades. Homework is a key tool in helping young people acquire the skills and knowledge they need for the next steps in their education/employment.

What are the aims of our homework policy and practice?

- Help students learn how to work hard independently so they have the satisfaction of knowing that they can be successful by and for themselves
- To ensure that students get the opportunity to explore and develop creative ideas away from the time constraints of the classroom.
- Help students get into good working habits ready for revising for exams and taking level 3 courses.
- Students can show teachers what they can do independently.
- Allow teachers to spend more time in the class extending and assessing students' understanding.
- Allow students more practice time on the areas of study that they need to develop so that they can perform well in public exams and with greater confidence.

Practice: How much homework should students get?

In Key Stage 3 in English, Maths and Science, students will receive one piece of homework per week. For all other subjects, students will receive one per of homework, per subject, every two weeks.

In Key Stage 4, students will receive one piece of homework per week, per subject.

Students will not be set homework for the next day so they can organise their homework around their after-school activities.

All students work at different rates therefore it is difficult to say precisely how long it will take to do each homework. One student might be really engaged by a homework and spend an enjoyable hour exploring ideas around it, whilst another might complete it in twenty minutes. We would advise that students in KS3 spend between 20-30 minutes on each piece of homework with this increasing in KS4. We recognise that time allocation is likely to differ from piece to piece.

What types of homework might be set for students?

All of the learning students do in school is based around the working-memory model, avoiding cognitive overload and focusing on retrieval and recall at regular intervals. All homework that students receive will be either:

- Retrieval Practice (often in the form of low-stakes quizzes).
- Revision Activities (which build good learning habits as students move further up the school).
- Flipped Learning (where students will be asked to complete a task that informs learning in the next lesson).

In Key Stage 4, homework will follow this pattern, but students will also be given opportunities for deliberate practice, most commonly through the completion of exam questions. Some homework may be delivered through online learning platforms, such as Educake or SPARX.

It is important to note that not all homework will receive written feedback from teachers. Some homework will be self-marking so students will receive instant feedback, whereas teachers may provide other types of feedback for other pieces, such as whole-class feedback.

How will homework be set?

All homework will be set on EduLink. Students will be able access their homework via the EduLink app or through EduLink on a desktop computer or laptop.

EduLink will inform students, parents and guardians:

- When a piece of homework has been set, and when it is due.
- The details of the homework, which will show what students need to complete.
- Whether the homework has been submitted by students and received by the teacher.

Whilst EduLink has replaced Microsoft Teams as our vehicle for setting homework, Teams continues to exist in the background for students to access lesson materials that their teacher deems appropriate.

Handing in homework

The way students are expected to hand in homework will vary, some homework will involve online submission and for some pieces teachers will ask students to bring their homework to the next lesson. If homework is physically handed in on a sheet of paper, students are expected to keep this unfolded and well presented. All homework must be handed in on time.

If a student is absent when the homework is set, the student should still attempt to complete the homework. They should discuss with the teacher if they need time to catch up on the information from the lesson.

What happens when homework is not handed in on time or isn't done?

Students are expected to contact the teacher before the lesson, preferably before the day of the lesson, if they are experiencing difficulty. They should always attempt to complete a homework even if they are struggling. Good learning does involve struggle and our students need to learn how to cope with struggle. Students who miss the deadline or whose homework is not of the required standard will have to repeat the work. Students struggling to complete homework independently may also be supported in homework club. Teachers will be mindful of family emergencies and give extensions on the rare occasions when they happen.

How will homework be marked?

Not all homework will need to be marked. Teachers might assess students' understanding of the homework by how well they perform in a class activity. Students might mark their own or each other's homework in class as a learning activity or it might be marked by the computer program, they used to complete it. Extended pieces should be marked as normal assessment pieces.

What will happen when students have poor completion rates or consistently produce low quality homework?

Ultimately this student is far less likely to make progress in school so we need to take any intervention we can to ensure that the student does not fall even further behind. This is likely to involve referral to a homework club.

Roles and responsibilities

The school:

- Provision of a place to record and publicise homework
- Provision of study facilities- there will be after school homework study sessions for designated year groups.
- Provide access to textbooks, revision guides and online resources so that students can complete homework in school.
- The Assistant Headteacher will monitor the quantity and quality of homework being set and work with staff to ensure that students are working at the appropriate standard and making progress.

Faculty Leaders:

- Ensure that all students in their subject areas are receiving homework that will enable them to make progress
- Monitor consistency and quality of homework and work with teachers to ensure that students are working at a high standard.
- Be mindful of teacher workload by checking assessment deadlines in Schemes of Work, encouraging sharing of homework tasks and ensuring that homework types are varied in their methods of assessment.

Teachers:

- Set good quality homework that will develop students' thinking and enable them to develop their skills and knowledge.
- Record homework on Edulink.
- Provide time in lessons to tell students about homework set.
- Monitor the quality of homework and intervene if a student's homework is not of the quality expected of them.
- Provide support to help students develop good homework habits and completion.
- Liaise with parents when homework is affecting student progress.

SENDCo:

- Communicate with staff and parents about the best methods for supporting SEND students with their homework.
- Devise an intervention strategy with teachers, parents, TAs to support individual students to ensure they can complete homework.

Heads of Year:

- Monitor students in need of homework support and ensure that intervention is put in place for those who are experiencing problems across subjects.
- Liaise with parents, teachers and students to problem-solve when homework becomes an issue.

Parents:

- Ensure children have a quiet place to work and appropriate resources.
- Support children with organisation-all schoolbooks kept in one place, a copy of the timetable on the wall of the bedroom.
- Let us know, if possible, when there has been a family emergency which has affected homework completion.
- Regularly view child's homework on Edulink.
- Provide children with encouragement to do homework even when the going gets tough and the homework is challenging. Direct students to check through book, ask a friend, look at their Teams classroom, do a google search.
- Avoid doing the homework for children so that teachers can see what students can do independently.
- Monitor stress levels. Reassure children that they might not get everything right first time, but they are expected to try their best.

Students:

- Look at Edulink each day on mobile phones or computers at home, computers at school.

- Get into a homework routine by doing homework at the same time every day preferably in the same place.
- Do homework to the best of their ability and keep going even when the homework is challenging.
- Discuss with their teachers what problems they have encountered and what they have enjoyed.
- Bring homework to school to hand in on or before the deadline day or submit online as required. Homework should be well presented and A4 sheets should not be folded.
- Catch up on homework if they have been absent.
- Don't ask parents to do their homework for them!