



HOMWORK AND INDEPENDENT STUDY POLICY

Rationale

Homework and Independent Study is defined as 'any work or activities which students are asked to do outside lesson time'. All work of this nature should have a clear purpose.

The purpose of any Independent Study may:

- encourage students to develop the skills needed for independent learning to consolidate, reinforce and broaden the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom
- enable students to meet the demands of GCSE Controlled Assessment assignments
- form part of a revision programme in preparation for school and public examinations
- sustain the involvement of parents and carers in students' learning and keep them informed about the work students are doing

Key Stage 3 Homework

Work set should reflect the academic level and particular learning needs of a group or individual and therefore, it is not possible to set down strict rules about the amount or type of homework to be set for a whole year group. However, staff will work within the following guidelines:

Years 7 and 8 – 20-30 minutes per subject

Year 9 – 30-40 minutes per subject

Extended Learning Projects

At Key Stage 3, students are set a number of Extended Learning Projects (ELPs) for homework. These are substantial pieces of work that students complete over a longer period of time. Extended Learning Projects are designed to develop skills such as creativity, enquiry, self-management and teamwork, as well as subject knowledge.

Students will be expected to spend their relevant subject homework time each week during the Extended Learning Project cycle to complete this work. Subject teachers will determine the start and completion date of each project (within set half term blocks) to ensure that it complements work undertaken in class and provides suitable assessment opportunities.

ELPs will be set in Geography, History and RE, ICT, Art, Technology and Performing Arts. All homework tasks will be set via Classcharts.

Weekly homework

Students will be set weekly tasks in English, Maths, French / German and Science (this may be split into Biology, Chemistry and Physics by Year 9).

Time to complete homework

Students must be given more than one night to complete homework, unless it is a pre-learning homework or evaluation between lessons.

Marking and Assessing homework

At Key Stage 3, subjects with weekly homework must set at least one assessed piece of homework per half term with feedback given within two weeks of submission. Subjects with ELP homework should assess and give feedback on all ELPs with a two week deadline for marking.

Key Stage 4 Homework

In Years 10 and 11 students are expected to spend between one and two hours independent study per subject per week.

Students following GCSE (or equivalent) courses will have a programme of independent study which should form the basis of their revision for public examinations in Year 10 and Year 11. Each subject will publish the weekly topics / tasks to be covered at the beginning of each half term via Classcharts to enable students and their parents to plan their workload and raise any queries relating to the work to be undertaken. This work may include the following:

- Use of web based revision tools such as MyMaths
- Use of revision specific website such as bbcbiteize
- Past paper questions
- Production of revision notes
- Learning for class tests

The half termly tasks will be the minimum expectation for students. Some subjects may wish to set further pre-learning / evaluation / completion tasks as the need arises – this will be recorded in the student planner.

Not all of the half termly published homeworks will be formally assessed – subject teachers will indicate which tasks will be used for assessment purposes.

Time to complete homework

All tasks will be published half termly and students will be given at least one week to complete each individual task. Students will be responsible for managing their time accordingly. Not all homework will be required to be handed in – revision tasks etc.

Marking and Assessing homework

At Key Stage 4, at least one homework per half term must be assessed with feedback given within two weeks of submission.

Roles and Responsibilities

Subject Teacher

- Set and mark homework in line with the Homework Policy.
- Plan homework which is an integral part of the learning process and offers opportunities for extension and consolidation.
- Make time in lessons to explain homework and place it in the context of the lesson and / or scheme of work objectives.
- Ensure that homework instructions and relevant resources are available via Classcharts.
- Ensure that all students have homework recorded, making alternative arrangements for students who have difficulty with organisation (homework on a sticker etc).
- Record on Classcharts when homework has been submitted.

Director of Learning / Teacher in Charge

- Monitor the quality and consistency of homework across the Area of Learning.
- Monitor marking and assessment of homework tasks.
- Provide opportunities for sharing good practice in the development of independent learning tasks which improve student outcomes.

Form Tutor

- Monitor issues relating to homework recording and completion via the planner and parental comments.
- Liaise with Directors of Learning and / or Key Stage Learning Managers as appropriate.

Assistant Headteacher, Learning and Teaching

- Monitor the quality and consistency of homework across the school.
- Monitor marking and assessment of homework tasks.
- Provide opportunities for sharing good practice in the development of independent learning tasks which improve student outcomes.

Assistant Headteacher, Achievement and Progress

- Monitor issues relating to completion of homework, with particular reference to vulnerable groups (e.g. Pupil Premium) and ensure that AoLs have appropriate interventions in place.
- Ensure that whole school intervention and support meets the needs of and provides support for students who consistently fail to complete homework.

Approved by Full Governing Body 15th November 2021
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