



HOMEWORK POLICY

September 2016

(This will be updated in the summer 2018 to reflect the ongoing changes to the current curriculum)

HOMework POLICY

Member of Staff responsible: Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

Review Date: Annual

1. Principles

The key to the school policy on homework is the need for the student, parent/carer and school to work in partnership.

- 1.1 Homework can be defined as *an activity relevant to the school learning curriculum which is completed outside subject time and is the responsibility of the student to complete and the teacher to monitor.*
- 1.2 As homework is an integral part of a good education in effective schools, it should be set regularly and marked in a timely fashion.
- 1.3 Homework should be varied in its purpose and generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences in addition to those provided in school including:
 - an extension of the time available to a subject to reinforce classwork or practise skills learnt or a free-standing unit/piece of work
 - to enhance the quality and level of achievement
 - to provide independent work
 - develop the ability to work on one's own
 - give the opportunity for research
 - to allow time for preparation for controlled assessment
 - to permit target setting and achieving targets
 - to enhance study skills including time management, organisation and prioritising
 - to enable access to external sources of information
 - to reinforce student's responsibility (and ownership) for own learning
 - to give parents opportunity to help/assist
 - as a form of assessment
 - to give time for revision and learning
 - to prepare for a test or examination
- 1.4 Homework is best provided within a flexible framework which takes into account the age, ability, home circumstances and other demands on students' time so should be differentiated as appropriate
- 1.5 Homework must have a clear link with classwork and demonstrate purpose, context and outcome to enable students to relate the work to their own development and learning.

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Students

- **to** record homework to enable efficient planning of time and completion
- **to** do homework and meet deadlines through effective time management
- **to** develop skills in independent learning in order to complete tasks
- **to** label homework as such in books or other work
- **to** seek appropriate help and support, if required, in order to complete homework prior to submission deadlines

2.2 Staff

- **to** set appropriate differentiated homework at a frequency appropriate to the subject
- **to** provide students with an expected return date for marked work, if appropriate
- **to** monitor completion and quality of homework and ensure it is marked as appropriate and following departmental policies
- **for** class teacher to contact parents/carers if there are recurrent problems and inform Heads of Department if appropriate who in turn inform Heads of Progress and Support as required
- **to** monitor the recording of homework through tutor time
- **Heads of Department to** monitor the setting of homework in their department in accordance with the school and departmental homework policies

2.3 Parents/Carers

- **to** support teachers by making sure homework is completed
- **to** endeavour to provide a suitable learning environment for home study and where appropriate give encouragement and guidance on homework. For example, this can be done by:-
 - advising on presentation, handwriting and spelling
 - checking that children understand what they have been studying
 - listening to them read what they have studied
 - asking directed questions so that the student is helped to work out the correct solution and is not just given the answer
- **to** contact subject teacher, form tutor or Head of Progress and Support as appropriate if there are recurrent problems

3. Organisation

3.1 Departmental Homework Check List

In order to support the overall school homework policy every department will have a policy statement on homework (summarised on pages 4-10). This policy statement should set out the following:-

- the amount of homework classes should receive, reflecting the amount of curriculum time it has
- sufficient time for completion of the homework is given
- the objectives of homework
- the types of homework to be set
- the methods to be used for assessment, feedback and target setting (see school and departmental assessment policies)
- the arrangements for notification of form tutors/Head of Progress and Support of problems concerning students
- the arrangements for letters to parents/carers and departmental detentions
- the arrangements for the review of the setting and marking of the department's homework and how the assessments made on homework are recorded
- how students are rewarded for their work, and how sanctions for failure to complete are employed
- promote any opportunities the department uses to support students out of lessons through homework clubs and so on

3.2 Other Arrangements

- **School Study Room/Independent Learning Areas**
The library and other independent learning areas are open before school opens and at the end of the school day. These are places where homework might be completed.
- **Revision Clubs**
Departments will offer support such as homework clubs throughout the year, and revision clubs in the weeks preceding external exams.

4. Review and Evaluation

This policy should be reviewed and evaluated every two years by the Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)

English

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	Homework will be set once a week (for split groups each teacher will set homework once a fortnight)	Homework might be a reading or writing task, but all students will have at least one written task per fortnight. For three of the Year 9 topics (fiction; non-fiction; Shakespeare) students will be set an extended piece of writing to be completed by a designated date, to give opportunity for independent learning. Students will be given information which will enable them to target a particular level for this work in order to achieve (or exceed) their target level.
GCSE	Students should expect two homeworks per fortnight, or, if appropriate, one longer homework per fortnight	Homework might be a reading or writing task. It could also be preparation for a Controlled Assessment task or a Timed Essay. Students will also be set an extended piece of writing where appropriate (as above), for example to explore the context of a novel.
A Level	Homework will be set as appropriate for the Unit of study.	For coursework Units students will be expected to work independently to complete their work by a designated date. Interim deadlines may also be set. For examined Units, students will be expected to complete essays or practice papers. Students will also be expected to prepare for class presentations; they will prepare to lead discussion groups or make a presentation to the class. Additional tasks are offered via the Independent Learning Plan Copies of past papers or past exam questions are always available.

Mathematics

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
	Staff teaching in the department will set homework in accordance with the homework timetable for each year group.	To include, but not limited to, the following key elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Completion of class exercise. ▪ Research of new topics/extension materials. ▪ Revision in preparation for test/examination. ▪ Practising the use of mathematical formulae. ▪ Question sets to assess understanding of a key idea. ▪ Practising a key study skill.

Science

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	1 in 3 lessons (30 minutes)	<p>Understanding of the subject matter. This aim can be well supported by homework support sheets given by departmental schemes of work. Reading with understanding: e.g. Research or ICT based homework Homework supporting Numeracy and Literacy Investigative techniques: e.g. planning science investigation, performing simple experiments, presenting and evaluating data and drawing conclusions Revision based home works Homework can also be set to reinforce work previously covered at school but also to extend and build upon classroom learning outcomes.</p>
GCSE Science A	1 in 3 lessons (30 minutes)	
Y10	1 in 4 lessons (30 minutes)	
Y11	1 in 4 lessons (30 minutes)	
GCSE Triple	1 in 3 lessons (45 minutes)	<p>Understanding of the subject matter. This aim can be well supported by homework support sheets given by departmental schemes of work. Reading with understanding: e.g. Research or ICT based homework Homework supporting Numeracy and Literacy Investigative techniques: e.g. planning science investigation, performing simple experiments, presenting and evaluating data and drawing conclusions Revision based home works Homework can also be set to reinforce work previously covered at school but also to extend and build upon classroom learning outcomes.</p>
Y10	1 in 4 lessons (45 minutes)	
Y11	1 in 4 lessons (45 minutes)	
Y11	1 in 4 lessons (45 minutes)	
A Level	1 in 3 lessons (60 minutes)	<p>Understanding of the subject matter. This aim can be well supported by homework support sheets given by departmental schemes of work. Reading with understanding: e.g. Research or ICT based homework Homework supporting Numeracy and Literacy Investigative techniques: e.g. planning science investigation, performing simple experiments, presenting and evaluating data and drawing conclusions Revision based home works Homework can also be set to reinforce work previously covered at school but also to extend and build upon classroom learning outcomes.</p>
Y12	1 in 2 lessons (60 minutes)	
Y13	1 in 2 lessons (60 minutes)	

RE

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
	<p>The Department uses the VLE to set 'project' based homework termly. In addition shorter learning homework will be set once after three or four lessons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It may be preparation or research work • It may be the writing up of discussion work or reflection on classwork • It may be practice examination work • It may be learning key words or teachings

Art

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	Pupils will be given one piece of homework per fortnight	Homework objectives will always be relevant to class projects and will be set for a purpose that assists the development of pupils overall understanding. This may be through research and influence, experimentation and concept or skills and technique.
GCSE	Pupils will receive one piece of homework every other lesson, unless the next lesson is the following day	
A Level	Pupils will fulfil the need to work independently, in between each lesson. They will be set specific homework tasks at appropriate times, often reflecting the individuals work, rather than the class.	

Business/ICT

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
GCSE	As needed to support learning topics For coursework activities, homework is continuation of project tasks as needed in consultation with teachers 1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open and closed questions • Independent research • Investigations/ projects • Essay writing • Exam style questions • Surveys • Revision
A Level	As needed to support learning topics For coursework activities, homework is continuation of project tasks as needed in consultation with teachers 4 hours per week, to focus on Independent learning skills	

Drama

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	Homework will be set once a half term. Homework is project, display or presentation based on the Scheme of Work.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing self-assessments • Specific research tasks • Background research • Learning lines • Completing Evaluations • Writing in-role • Costume / Set designs • Learning Spelling and Vocabulary • Group rehearsals for practical assessment
GCSE	Students should expect two homeworks per fortnight, or, if appropriate, one longer homework per fortnight	
A Level		<p>In addition to the above:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For examined Units, students will be expected to complete essays or practice papers. • Students will also be expected to prepare for class presentations; they will prepare to lead discussion groups or make a presentation to the class. • Additional tasks are offered via the Independent Learning Plan • Copies of past papers or past exam questions are always available. • Significant rehearsal for practical exams; may include some after school and weekends.

Geography

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	1 in 3 lessons 30 minutes	In Year 9 homework should take the form of personal research, imaginative and creative work (e.g. posters, PowerPoints, journals)
GCSE	1 in 5 lessons 1 hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A variety of Exam style questions • Specific research tasks • Wider revision in preparation for mock exams and GCSE exams • Preparation tasks for controlled assessments
A Level	Frequent 4 hours per week, to focus on Independent learning skills	<p>Homework for AS/A2 students takes a variety of forms including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background reading/ notes • Examination Questions • Research • Students are provided with an Independent Learning Programme of work which will complement their classwork and homework.

History

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	30 mins per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects • Comprehension/note-making questions (all years) • Essay writing (all years) • Learning and Revising for tests/timed questions (all years)
GCSE	1 hour per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension/note-making questions (all years) • Essay writing (all years) • Learning and Revising for tests/timed questions (all years)
A Level	4 hours per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension/note-making questions (all years) • Essay writing (all years) • Reading (Y12/13) • Learning and Revising for tests/timed questions (all years)

MFL

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
	<p>Pupils will be set two pieces of homework weekly Every week pupils will be given words to learn for testing from their topic vocabulary sheets. This will be tested either from English to the target language (to test spellings) or from the target language to English (to test understanding). On alternate weeks pupils will be set, in addition to this, a reading and a writing task. Y9 students taking two languages will have French homework weekly. Pupils will generally be given one week to complete these tasks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, writing or redrafting a piece of work (maybe for assessment) • Research, collection of information for an individual or group project, such as group talk. • Completing an exercise to practise, enforce or apply skills taught in the class work • Planning a role play or oral presentation • Creating posters or display work • Learning vocabulary or grammar rules • Revision for an end of unit or half term test or mock or final examination

Music

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning, writing or redrafting a piece of work (maybe for assessment) • Research or preparation work for an individual or group project. • Completing an exercise to practise, enforce or apply musical skills taught in the class work. • Completing self-assessment sheets • Planning a musical performance or oral presentation. • Creating posters or display work. • Learning key vocabulary. • Revision or practise examination papers for an end of unit listening test or formal examination.
GCSE		<p>Those tasks above and additionally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening and score reading. • Analysis and essay writing. • Stylistic Harmony exercises.
A Level		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumental practise. • Composition coursework. • Revision or practise examination papers for an external examination.

PE

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
GCSE	Homework will be set at least once per fortnight as a minimum expectation.	<p>Homework will be seen as a vital part of the learning process & may be used by the teacher for a variety of reasons, eg. to complete class-work from the theory or practical lesson, supplement class-work with further tasks (exam questions/research) or revision for tests/exams. For a full list of possible purposes see whole school homework policy.</p> <p>Homework need not be purely written tasks & reading will be given equal importance as a learning method.</p>
A Level	Students can expect to receive homework during the week lasting 2- 4 hours.	<p>Typical tasks will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehension/note-making • Practice exam questions & writing extended answers • Reading • Revision for tests/timed questions • Students are provided with an Independent Learning Programme of work which is essential for the completion of coursework in yr12 and for the final exam in yr13 • Preparation for presentations to the class

Social Sciences

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
	Students should expect some form of homework to be set at least weekly by each subject teacher.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional extended/essay style written pieces. • Reading/preparation • Research • Preparing presentations • Learning for a test/revision • If, exceptionally, no homework is set, students are expected to review notes, do extended reading, and maintain their lesson files in good order. Booklets of past examination papers to complete are provided and can be used in this situation.

Technology

	Frequency/ Amount	Types
Year 9	Completed independently over a period of 52 weeks (with a guidance time plan provided to students) during Spring/Summer rotation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an extended research task that is given to students at the start of the term and will contain literacy based tasks such as written assignments on a given theme, or a mini-project to design and produce a specific product
GCSE	Students are given a time plan over the year which contains hand-in dates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete individual assessment tasks set out at the end of each section of the revision guides published by Letts and Lonsdale
A Level	Independent study programme modules are to be completed outside of scheduled lessons and have hand-in dates throughout the year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an independent study programme consisting of extremely relevant individual tasks to compliment classroom and will cover a variety of tasks from literacy based assignments, through to extended research projects and practical activities, all of which are designed to promote independence and extend subject knowledge