



Reasons to do homework

Homework provides opportunities for extended practice: giving students tasks that enable them to improve their fluency and confidence; tasks that support deeper and more fluent recall. Lesson time is often not enough on its own and students need structured guidance to support their practice activities. Ten minutes a week of extra practice in any subject could amount to 15 hours over S1-3 and this would certainly improve anyone's attainment.

It is also very important that all pupils learn how to study effectively in each subject and work independently at home so that, by the time exams come around, they know what to do with study time. Routine homework year on year helps pupils to develop good study habits. We cannot expect them suddenly to put in a solid two hours a night come S4 prelim time if they are not accustomed to working at home as a matter of routine. We need to teach them to become independent, autonomous learners, who regard it as normal to study; no big deal, just an integrated part of being at school and learning.

Research also tells us that doing homework improves performance. Research evidence suggests that homework is more effective for younger or less confident students when it builds confidence and fluency. This requires tasks to be tightly defined, well scaffolded and focused mainly on practising things students can already do. Repetitive practice of techniques already learnt in class or learning of facts (e.g. from Knowledge Organisers) will be worthwhile added time to a course already struggling for time.

As well as this the net result of not setting homework will be a widening of the poverty related achievement gap as the more privileged pupils will experience a wider range of learning experiences out with school than some less advantaged pupils.

However, having said all that, homework should never be set for the sake of it and must always have a clear purpose that will result in increased learning for the child.

The homework that we set will follow the following guidelines.

Homework must be efficient and useful and teachers must care that it is done

Homework must be clearly worth the pupil effort in completion. Work set must be tangibly useful to pupils and should have a clear purpose which is obviously linked to the curriculum.

Homework should be time manageable; it will be short and frequent; not long, irregular and complicated.

The emphasis will be on practice and consolidation. This means students will be set question and tasks they are familiar with in sufficient quantity to constitute sustained practice. Homework is an ideal way to employ retrieval techniques to strengthen learning by giving question practice on a topic studied the week or even term before so sometimes the questions will relate to previous work, not the most recently covered work.

Homework set must be clear and finite and accessible to all

Homework will not be set that is an open ended task that involves googling or researching things or that assumes pupils have access to help at home. Pupils must have the resources they need to do the work they are asked to on Google Classroom alongside the assignment posting, be this a revision guide, booklet, multiple choice worksheet or knowledge organiser.

All homework will be set on Google Classroom so that you, as a parent, are aware of it.

Feedback

Learning will be checked in class and homework will often be self, peer or technologically marked and feedback maybe be to the whole class.

The point of the homework will often be to learn something therefore what is important would be to check that the learning has taken place for every pupil.

What happens if homework is not done?

The expectation of completion of homework will be the same for all pupils and year groups.

A centralised system will be used whereby teachers will record any homework not completed on Seemis. **This will mean that a weekly text (usually Tuesday) will go out to all parents/carers for any homeworks not completed in the previous week.** It isn't possible with our systems to give detail in the text, but parents/carers can phone Guidance to ask for this. Non-completion of homework will be reviewed on a regular basis by Guidance staff and Year Heads.

Parental support

As a parent you can very much support your child by taking an interest in their homework and asking regularly what work they have to do. Ensuring that they have a space with quiet to do the work with no distraction (including phones) is important. If the homework is a task that involves learning of facts then it is very useful to have a family member willing to test using the Knowledge Organiser or flash cards.

Homework timings and frequency

Homework will be consistently issued to allow pupils to develop appropriate habits to become independent learners. The frequency will vary depending on year group and subject and will vary from weekly homework for subjects such as Maths and English, to once or twice termly for subjects that have fewer periods across the week.

In S1 and S2 the accumulated average time spent across a week should be approximately two and a half hours, while in S3 this should increase to about three hours a week.

Please always get in touch with your child's Guidance teacher if your child is having any issues with completing their homework and if they need help with this.