

Homework Expectations

Rationale

Homework enhances learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.

The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has collated all research conducted in education on homework and suggests homework to be an effective tool in ensuring students make progress throughout their education. They suggest that when students are engaged in completing homework throughout their time at secondary school, they can make as much as 5 months progress compared to those who don't complete regular homework.

Not all homework has to be completed at home. Homework refers to any work completed outside of lessons. For some students, who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available in the Academy, it is necessary to carry out the task/s at school. A computer room is available every day before (7.45am) and after school (3-4pm) for students to complete homework. However this remains the student's responsibility to ensure they make the most use of these facilities in a timely manner to allow homework to be handed in by the deadline.

Aims

Homework enables students to:

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- develop research skills.
- have an opportunity for independent work.
- show progress and understanding.
- provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- to enhance student's study skills for e.g. planning, time management
- Supports students character development for e.g. self-control
- to take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- engage parental co-operation and support.

Microsoft Teams

The Academy uses the platform Microsoft Teams. This allows teachers to publish homework set for each class along with guidance for completing the task and resources needed for completion. Students have all been provided with their own specific log in so they can see the homework that has been set for them.

When a teacher sets homework on Microsoft Teams, they will:

- Inform the class in lessons when it is set and when the due date is
- Provide any resources necessary for the homework to be completed.
- Explain how submission of homework will work (e.g. in class, online).
- Students should make a note of the homework deadline and the title in their planner.

All homework tasks set on Microsoft Teams will:

- Include a title and an explanation of the task
- Guidance as to the length, detail and what the finished work should include.
- Provide modelling for students on how to be completed

Expectations – How often should homework be set?

At KS3 Core subjects (English, Maths and Science) should set one piece of homework a week. All other departments should set one piece of homework a fortnight. Each piece of homework should take roughly 30 minutes to complete. Where possible at KS3 Core subjects will give one week for homework to be completed once set and two weeks for all other subjects.

At KS4 Core Subject (English, Maths and Science) should set two pieces of homework a week. All other departments should set one piece of homework a week. The length of time these tasks take to complete will vary in each year group but should take a minimum of 30 minutes to complete in Year 9 and up to 60 minutes in Year 11. Where possible at KS4 all subjects will give one week for homework to be completed once set.

Homework is only of use to a student and teacher if it is relevant to the learning done in class either prior to the homework or in preparation for a future lesson. Teachers are always working to ensure the homework they have set is the most valuable use of time for the student. As such whilst every effort will be made to set homework in line with this policy, it is not always possible for teachers to set homework directly in line with the guidance above. Concerns about the quality and quantity of homework being set should be raised initially with the mentor, or Family Leader.

What types of homework can be set?

Homework can be:

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of course work assignments
- Research
- Revision
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording

Responsibilities

The role of the **student is:**

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To use SMHW to give information on task and deadline/ copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into student planner
3. To ask the teacher for assistance prior to the deadline if there are any issues with homework.
4. To find access to a computer during the Academy day if necessary and unable to access from home.
5. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
6. To attempt all work and give their best.
7. Complete every homework task set and expect a consequence if this is not done.

The role of the **Class Teacher is:**

1. Set homework – differentiating when appropriate
2. Provide the resources for homework where necessary
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
5. Ensure students write homework into their planners.
6. Ensure students get feedback on homework (through self, peer or teacher assessment)
7. Provide help and support to ensure students can complete tasks.
8. Inform the Head of Department, Mentor and Family Leader, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of the **Head of Department** is:

1. To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
2. To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area including:
 - a. When homework will be set.
 - b. How much homework should be set
 - c. Types of homework used.
 - d. Department rewards.
 - e. Managing the consequences for unsatisfactory work in line with Academy policy.
 - f. How and by whom homework will be monitored.
 - g. Homework action plan following most recent detailed monitoring of homework.

The role of the **Parent/Carer** is:

1. Crucial if a student is to gain success from homework.
2. To reinforce its value through positive feedback
3. To give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents/Carers can assist by:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a student's quality of work and put a student under undue pressure.
5. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to the Academy.
6. Signing the homework planner each week.
7. Providing the Academy with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

Consequences

With the use of Microsoft Teams, students now have access to see when homework is set and how long is being given for the task to be completed.

It is an expectation that when homework is set all students WILL complete the task. Firstly it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure that students are present when homework is set and that they are given the necessary materials to complete the task.

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially ensure the student has been supported and ensure the tasks set can be completed by the student. If the student still fails to complete the task:

1. They will be given a demerit
2. Staff should set a deadline for when the task is now due to be submitted.
3. If a student fails to hand in this homework or repeatedly fails to meet the first deadline, they should be referred to the Head of Department for a detention.

Where issues with homework completion have arisen and further consequences are needed, class teachers will be supported by Heads of Department and Senior Staff. The systems to be used here include:

1. Class teacher - discussion and negotiation with student informing parents via student planner, phone call or email
2. Head of Department - discussion with referred student. Letter to parents and meeting with parents if necessary.
3. Mentors - through weekly monitoring of planners, identifying students with homework problems across several department areas and refers to Head of Family. Family Leader discusses with student, applies consequence or support where appropriate.
4. Family Leader - refers student to Line Manager or Assistant Principal in the case of a persistent offender.

Rewards

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. House points and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a Learning Zone letter or postcard may be sent home.

Monitoring

Microsoft Teams makes the setting and monitoring of homework set by staff much easier to complete.

Microsoft Teams will be monitored by:

1. The mentor (weekly)
2. The Family Leader (sampled every 2 weeks)
3. Member of the Academy Leadership Team (sampled twice per half term)

Class Teacher

1. Will ensure homework is set in line with Academy standards in terms of details required etc
2. Will use emotional intelligence when setting consequences for homework to ensure all students from all backgrounds are given the same support with completing homework.

Curriculum/Learning Zone Leader

1. Will sample Microsoft Teams.
2. Will look at examples of homework and will speak to students and staff accordingly.
3. Will evaluate.

Assistant Principal

1. Will sample Microsoft Teams records through Standards Review process.
2. Will sample examples of work and speak to students accordingly.
3. Will review homework policy annually.
4. Will ensure Microsoft Teams is fit for purpose.

Evaluation

- By ALT, co-ordinated by Assistant Principals.
- Whose needs are met?
- Whose needs are not being met and why?
- What are the problems that require short and long term solutions?
- What is the relationship of homework to the curriculum?
- How can policy and planning be more effective?