



Homework Policy

Review Cycle: 2 Years – Summer Term

Review By: Leadership Team, Qu of Ed/HR Sub-Committee

Contents:

Introduction; Setting of homework; Homework tasks; Marking of homework; Roles & Responsibilities; Monitoring of the Policy

Introduction

The following policy is designed to ensure consistency across the school in terms of homework setting and marking. This policy aims to ensure that students are given the opportunity to develop specific skills, knowledge and understanding outside the classroom, without overburdening students or staff with homework and marking respectively.

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it serves as an intellectual discipline, establishes study habits, eases time constraints on the amount of curricular material that can be covered in class, and supplements and reinforces work done in school. In addition, it fosters student initiative, independence and responsibility, and brings home and school closer together. It helps students to become confident and independent in their learning which will help throughout their time at school and in adult life.

Why is homework important?

If a student completes an hour's homework per school night for five years, it is the equivalent of an extra school year.

- It can help students to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can provide students with the opportunity to:
 - practise further what has been learnt in class
 - apply what they have learnt in new contexts or situations
 - prepare them for future learning
 - integrate skills with knowledge and concepts
- It can allow students to develop the practice of independent learning. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
- Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for work of all kinds.
- It gives the most enthusiastic students the opportunity to apply their passion and gain a deeper insight into the subject.
- It can allow students to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom, such as the internet, TV documentaries and news reports.
- It can involve parents and others in the students' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can give opportunities for long term research, enquiries and other work.
- It can form an important part of the student's notes – in preparation for the next lesson.
- It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines.

Setting of Homework

Homework is set per subject in KS4 and a homework rota in KS3. We believe this encourages students to manage their own workload and allows teachers to set purposeful and timely homework tasks.

KS3 Homework rotas will be issued at the start of the year and may be adjusted each term if required.

All homework will be set via Google Classroom with clearly stated expectations related to completion of the task and a clear date when the work is due.

In Year 7 students will record homework in a planner

In Year 8 and KS4 students who opt into a planner will record their homework

Guidance on amount of homework set:

In year 9, 10 and 11, we offer guidance on the time which should be spent on each homework task. If your child spends significantly less time on their homework it would suggest that they have not completed the task set to a sufficient standard.

Any minor shortfalls in time spent on an activity should be made up with students reviewing their work and/or responding to staff marking comments.

Year 7 and 8 Homework Rota

The rota (linked below) will help KS3 pupils to plan their homework time. Departments will adhere to this plan to ensure that homework is set on a regular basis.

https://www.alcesteracademy.org.uk/files/KS3_Homework_Rota_23-24.pdf

Ongoing homework tasks will be set most weeks such as reading their chosen book and completing accelerated reader quizzes. DT homework will be set as needed and may relate to things such as preparing food technology ingredients.

Other subjects will set individual tasks within the rota. Details of the types of tasks and monitoring of these can be found later in this policy

Note - Some subjects may set small additional homeworks (outside of the rota below) when needed for future lessons for example test revision.

Year 9-11 students

	Number of tasks per week	Total time in minutes per week (GUIDANCE)
English	1	20-30
Maths	1	20-30
Science	1	30-40
RE (years 9 and 10)	1	20-30
Option subjects	1 per option	20-30

During Year 9 the amount of homework issued will be increased from KS3 amounts to KS4 amounts during the autumn term to allow students to adjust to their new courses

Please note: should a lesson not take place due to activities such as Super Learning Days, Sports Day etc., then no homework will be set for that lesson on that day.

Should a student be absent for a day, it is their responsibility to find out what homework has been set and ensure that it is done. At times, this may require a student seeking an extension to a deadline. It is also the student's responsibility to seek this extension in advance of the deadline wherever possible.

Year 11 will be expected to complete additional individual revision which may include 'super six' activities

Other years may have an increased amount of individual work outside lessons during exam periods to prepare for these.

Homework Tasks

Teachers will set planned activities, identified in the schemes of work, to help consolidate or further students understanding. It is important that students are set a variety of tasks which may fall under the following headings (although this is not an exhaustive list):

Online

Students to be set interactive online tasks and quizzes using identified software

Specific tasks may be set through Google Classroom and the work may then be uploaded to the platform for teacher review

Learning tasks

Students may be set a shorter learning activity, such as learning spelling or key definitions, which will then be tested during the lesson.

Revision

Students will be asked to revise specific areas of the curriculum, which will then be tested during lesson. This may include 'super six' activities (see appendix 1)

Other

Students to be set any of the following:

- Exam questions either paper based or online
- Written exercise to be completed in their books
- Reading
- Research, which may or may not involve production of an 'end product' at home
- Lesson preparation eg collecting ingredients need for a Food Technology practical
- Creative tasks such as model making
- Rehearsal of music or drama pieces

Marking of Homework

Teachers will not provide detailed feedback to students on every piece of homework completed but may elect to use certain pieces for their focussed feedback as outlined in the marking policy. Teachers will endeavour to acknowledge each piece of KS3 homework* using the following codes:

1 – Homework is of an exceptional standard. Work and effort are above and beyond expectations . EPRAISE points awarded

2- Homework is of a good standard. It is completed in line with expectations. There could be some areas to develop

3- Homework is incomplete or of poor quality. It lacks the effort required. Improvement required

4- Homework is of very poor quality. Little or no effort has been put into the work. Significant improvement needed

X – Not handed in

Online homework will be marked in accordance with the service provided within the specific software used. Its completion will be tracked, but marking codes may not be applied in books.

* Teachers may not acknowledge homework at all times within the lesson of submission as this may prove detrimental to teaching and learning.

Completing homework in school

There are opportunities to complete homework in school. This is a perfectly acceptable alternative to completing work at home, should either time or access to facilities be a limiting factor. These facilities include:

- Our Art facility is usually open at lunchtime, but periodically may be unavailable due to staff commitments.
- Our LRC is open most lunch times and serves as an access to ICT, a quiet work area or a reading area.
- Homework clubs will be published on our 'Additional Learning Opportunities' area of the website, under 'Extra Curricular'.
- A year 11 study room available 3 times per week

Sanctions for not completing homework

We believe that homework has a real value and contributes significantly to the development of students' learning. As such, it should never be seen as an optional activity and it's completion is mandatory. Any student not completing their homework on time or to the required standard can expect the following sanctions:

- Student receives a warning and extension given (used once per term only)
- 20 minutes detention in subject area and homework handed in. Set for lunchtime (to allow for food to be eaten or purchased)
- 45 minutes after school detention in subject area and homework handed in
- Academy detention and homework handed in
- If not resolved at this stage, the subject leader will ask to meet with parents

These sanctions are designed to be hierarchical i.e. the first time a homework is missed the lowest sanction is applied, the second time, the next highest etc. Each subject area will track a student individually and as such a student may find themselves at different stages of this hierarchy in different lessons.

Roles & Responsibilities

How will the homework policy work in practice?

All students should

- In Year 7 students will record homework tasks in their planners and ensure their understanding of the tasks;
- In Year 8 those students who have opted into using a planner will record their homework
- In KS4 students will check the work on Google Classroom and ensure their understanding of the tasks set
- demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the tasks set;
- complete all work set to the best of their ability;
- present homework appropriately;
- hand in or submit the work in on time.

All parents/carers should

- aim to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which students can do their homework or help students attend other places where homework can be done, such as the Library;
- make it clear to students that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress at school;
- encourage students and praise them when they have completed homework;
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are;
- check that tasks have been set in line with the homework timetable / rota
- In Year 7, sign the planner once a week;

- inform the school if an issue arises.
- Support staff when sanctions are applied for incomplete homework
- Support the homework policy by signing up for Google Classroom alerts
- Encourage good organisation as practise for the future in education and the wider world

Monitoring of this Policy

The implementation of this policy will be monitored through Subject Leaders, Senior Leaders and the Governors' Quality of Education Sub Committee.

Signed: _____ **Headteacher**

Signed: _____ **Chair of Governors**

Date: _____

(ratified by the Full Governing Body on 11th July 2023)

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Appendix 1



TO BE THE BEST THAT WE CAN BE

The Super Six:

flash cards
mind-mapping
quizzing
memory palace
mnemonics
practise