



## **Homework Policy**

Adopted by Governing Body: 03.05.16

Reviewed by Governing Body: 21.05.19

Date of next review: May 2022

Statutory Policy: No

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

## **Aims**

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Improve their own study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- Take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage with parents/carers for support and create channels for home school dialogue.

## **Expectations: When, how much and by whom?**

Homework is not set for all students as a matter of course as it is recognised that most would need considerable support from a family member to undertake tasks at home. Parents/carers are provided with targets and information about the units of work being studied in each Key Stage over the year via the curriculum topic map (available on the school website). This gives parents/carers an opportunity to enrich the teaching and learning provided by the school by undertaking supportive visits or research if they judge this to be appropriate to their child. Teachers also make every effort to work closely with parents/carers in the development of self-help and independence skills and in the management of behaviour where consistency between home and school is especially important.

All parents/carers are encouraged to read and play with their children. Activities may be sent home to share from time to time or families may be requested to support their child's learning by sending in objects or photographs from home in connection with a specific topic. Teachers are always willing to give advice on ways of extending learning at home and send specific materials if requested. The development of communication skills is a priority for all students.

For students using specific programmes such as PECS, parents/carers may be asked to extend this technique into the home environment. Speech and Language reports will be shared where necessary and specific activities will also be shared with the home if required.

In response to parental willingness to support their child in doing homework, some class teachers will set homework each week in the form of spellings, reading or tasks related to the topics being studied. Where possible, more than one night will be given to complete the homework to give families some flexibility.

We do not wish to put any pressures on parents/carers to ask for homework. The majority of our students need a lot of support to complete their work, so it does place an extra demand on the parents/carers. It is also understood that homework is not appropriate for all students or in all family situations.

The following are examples of homework activities that may be set: -

- Reading/researching items related to a lesson
- Worksheets
- Practice of self-help/life skills
- Symbol Activities
- Finding information
- Maths works books
- Drawing
- Colouring sheets
- Watching specific TV programmes
- Cut and paste and sequencing tasks
- Tasks related to accredited schemes (KS4 and KS5)

Parents/carers are encouraged to discuss any issues related to homework via the Home School Book, at the Annual review, Parents/carers' Evening etc. or by contacting the class teacher.

## **What does homework look like in each department?**

### **Early Years**

There is no homework set in Early Years but we would encourage parents/carers/carers to read and play with their children. We would also encourage parents/carers/carers to help their children to develop self-help skills e.g. feeding, dressing and undressing etc. As well as developing their communication skills with the support of school staff who will be willing to advise on this.

### **Key Stage 2**

For pupils for whom it is appropriate, we send a piece of Literacy or Numeracy work home each week. This is linked to our current topic and is differentiated. Some classes may send spellings home each week which the children are encouraged to learn. Reading books are sent home daily. Complex needs students have no set homework sent home, although we work with parents/carers in order to send appropriate support home for individual communication systems.

### **Key Stage 3**

In KS3 pupils may receive homework for English, Maths and Science depending on the topic being studied. Pupils are encouraged to regularly read at home and may have spellings to practise. In order to support your child with their learning it is suggested that they have opportunities to practise their skills in real-life circumstances such as; using money, telling the time, ordering food etc. Pupils with Complex Needs will not be set specific homework tasks but we would encourage parents/carers/carers to read and play with their children.

### **Key Stage 4**

In KS4 homework supports and reinforces work being delivered in school. It is not necessarily a formal or written task. It can be playing games, phonics activities, learning spellings, making or drawing something, life skills tasks, researching topics or watching the news. Homework may also include extension activities relating to work being delivered in class. It is generally set once or twice a week.

### **Key Stage 5**

Students in KS5 are encouraged to research specific topics related to their accredited work or watch the news to keep up to date with the world around them. They are also encouraged with support from their families to further explore their options for life beyond school.