



Highlands School

Homework Policy

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| Date of Last Review | May 2015 |
| Next Review Due | May 2017 |
| Governors Committee | C&S |

A Policy for Homework at Highlands School

Rationale

Homework is work that is set to be completed 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.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, 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 at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school in the Homework Club, which runs after school each afternoon in the Library until 4.30pm.

Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area. In addition, teachers can bring their subjects to life by setting homework based on contemporary news items.

Homework Objectives

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study.
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline.
- To encourage students to acquire self-awareness, self-confidence and initiative.
- To enable students to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom.
- To permit more rapid progress to be made by each individual; to promote quiet reflection on the work covered in the lesson.
- To enable class work to concentrate on activities requiring the teacher's presence.
- To encourage students to investigate topics of study in depth, particularly through the use of effective follow-up questions.
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom.
- To encourage enjoyment of subject-related skills, concepts and experiences.

Incentives

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 may be awarded for good homework with post cards or head teacher's awards reserved for exceptional work, in line with the school rewards policy.

Equally, poorly completed or missing homework will be sanctioned through teacher led detentions and, if repeated, through contacting parents and carers, in line with the Ladder of Consequences.

Responsibilities

The role of the Class Teacher

- The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

- Set homework according to the faculty scheme of work, whilst taking into account the abilities and educational needs of their students.
- Ensure that sufficient time is allowed to complete the homework (more usually a week from setting to collection; rarely overnight).
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework in a timely way– sign, peer, self assess, grade or provide written feedback.
- Provide help and support.
- Inform parents, the Faculty Head, Tutor and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of Heads of Faculty, Heads of Year & the Senior Leadership Team

- Heads of Faculty and their faculty leadership teams will monitor the quality and standard of homework within the faculty.
- The Senior Leadership Team will sample students' books and planners as part of their monitoring of standards.
- Heads of Year will also monitor planners and will inform Heads of Faculty of any concerns raised by their monitoring or by tutors.

The role of the student

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework planner.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties, if possible before the due date.

The role of the Parents/Carers

The role of the parent/carer is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

- Providing a quiet place to work.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Signing the homework planner each week.
- Providing the school with information about any problems through the homework planner or by contacting the school directly. This will include letting their child's teachers know if their child is routinely spending excessive time on homework or consistently finding it too hard or too easy.

The role of the Form Tutor

- To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded.
- To check that the planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

Expectations: How much and by whom?

The expectation of the length of homework will depend on: the curriculum time for each subject; the nature of the work; the ability of the student; and the particular Year Group.

On average a student should expect to receive the following:

- Yrs 7 & 8: anywhere between 30 – 60 minutes per day.
- Yr 9: anywhere between 45 – 90 minutes per day.
- Yrs 10 & 11: anywhere between 60 – 90 minutes per day.
- Yr 12 & 13: anywhere between 90 – 150 minutes per day, on top of any study lessons (sometimes mistakenly called "free periods"!))
- These suggested times are intended as a guide only and so are not prescriptive.

Homework Tasks

Homework can take a variety of forms, including:

- Writing tasks;
- Note-taking and writing up notes taken in lessons;
- Reading;
- Memorising – for example: facts, vocabulary, spellings;
- Completing coursework;
- Research;
- Drawing or design work;
- Preparing for discussions or presentations;
- On-line learning;
- Answering questions;
- Completing worksheets;
- Revising for tests and exams.