



# Homework Guide

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## Why is homework important?

Learning at home is an essential part of a good education.

Regular homework is important because:

- It gives pupils the opportunity to practise for themselves the tasks done in class and contributes towards improving a range of important skills
- It builds confidence and assists young people to personalise their learning. It allows pupils to work at a pace which suits them and their ability
- It provides the opportunity for pupils to extend their learning and undertake further independent research.

## Pupil guide

### The Homework Planner

You are expected to use your planner to help you organise and manage your time.

Aim to make daily use of your planner part of your routine. If you do it will quickly become a good habit which will help you to be successful in your studies. The planner will become more and more important as you progress through school.

Remember:

- Always have your planner with you in school
- Record every piece of homework in the planner and write down when it is due for completion
- Use the planner to ensure that your workload is as evenly spread as possible.
- If you know you have other activities in the evening, plan ahead.
- Use it to meet deadlines and set yourself targets.

### Tips

It is a very good idea to do the homework on the night that it is set and to attempt the work as early as possible.

Tried to avoid distractions when doing your homework eg. social networking. Spending longer does not necessarily produce better results – quality is more important than quantity but quality work involves careful thought and concentration.

Don't procrastinate!

You will usually receive verbal or written feedback on your homework. You will regularly receive comments on your effort and achievement and indications about how you can **improve** or build on your work. Try to act on the advice given.

### The Home Learning Zone

This is accessible via the home page of the school website. It enables parents and pupils to see the homework timetable and a summary of the actual tasks on the internet.

There may also be links to Moodle and other resources.

### Homework Club

Homework Club is available for pupils after school in the LRC. Pupils are able to use the IT facilities and are given support to complete homework tasks.

Pupils who are finding difficulty with homework may be referred to the homework club. It is the pupil's responsibility to take advantage of this help in order to complete homework.

## Parent guide

All pupils are issued with a *Student Planner* at the start of the academic year. This must be checked and signed every weekend.

Teachers will use the Planner to communicate rewards and sanctions to parents. Your child's Form Tutor will check the planner each week to ensure homework is being recorded accurately.

Homework needs to be a routine. Often the biggest difficulties pupils have are in settling down to work, and not being distracted. Pupils need somewhere quiet to work, preferably with a table or desk and without distractions such as TV.



Parents play a key role in the education of their children, especially with homework.

Show an interest in your child's homework; explaining what they have learned will help their understanding.

Give praise and encouragement for both homework and school work generally.

It is vital that pupils develop good habits with their homework. At Key Stage 4 homework forms an integral part of the course and consistent revision is essential for achievement at GCSE.

Homework tasks will vary in length. How long students spend on their homework may depend on how difficult they find the work, how conscientious they are or how engrossed in the task they become. Spending longer does not necessarily produce better results — quality is more important than quantity, but quality work involves careful thought and concentration. Teachers give pupils a guideline as to how long they should spend on a piece of work. As a rough guide pupils should spend this amount of time per week on their homework:

<b>Year 7</b> <b>3–5 hrs</b>	<b>Year 8</b> <b>4–6 hrs</b>	<b>Year 9</b> <b>5–7 hrs</b>
<b>Year 10</b> <b>6–8 hours</b>	<b>Year 11</b> <b>10–14 hours</b>	

## What happens if homework isn't being done?

Teachers will have high expectations of students, set deadlines for homework and ensure that they are met. If a piece of homework is not done for a valid reason, it is standard practice to issue a detention, usually after school.

Pupils are expected to see the subject teacher in advance if there is a good reason for a deadline not being met; alternatively, parents are asked to let us know of problems by phone or note. The school is always prepared to be flexible where individual circumstances warrant this. Some GCSE deadlines however are inflexible.

Teachers will communicate with parents via the pupil's planner where homework deadlines are not being met or where students fail to take advantage of the support, they are being offered. Such pupils are at risk of underachieving.

If not doing homework becomes a recurring issue, either within one subject or across a range of subjects, parents will be contacted to discuss the matter further and agree appropriate strategies to overcome the problems.

## Monitoring homework

Homework will be marked in different ways reflecting its varied content and purpose. For example learning or research homeworks are likely to be used as part of the following lessons; reading may be monitored through a reading log.

Teachers will check that a reasonable attempt has been made at the homework task. A homework record is kept for all pupils in every subject. A child's homework record always form part of the progress report parents receive at regular intervals throughout the year.

Pupils will receive regular feedback on specific pieces of assessed work. In line with the school marking policy, this feedback will usually recognise effort, indicate achievement and identify targets for improvement.

