

HEALING
SCHOOL



A Science Academy

Healing School – A Science Academy

Homework Policy

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Consultations/Training	Area Leaders & Subject Teachers

Policy Statement

General statement

The homework system should encourage the well-motivated pupil. It should not overburden pupils with work which is impossible to complete in a reasonable period of time and should include the following principles:

- The pupils should understand the task to be completed
- The resources for the homework should be readily available
- Should be possible to complete the task in the set time
- The work should be linked to Schemes of Work
- The teacher should have time to collect, evaluate and assess the work before returning it to the pupil
- Homework should be organised through the use of the Pupil Journal.

Pupils should be left in no doubt as to the length of homework and the number of subjects they are to receive on any particular night. Parents should be able to easily monitor the amount of homework received by their children and should have defined channels of communication through which to contact the School regarding homework. There is a strong link between homework and educational achievement. The completion of homework can increase the time available for study by nearly 25%, and over a 5 year period this can be equivalent to at least one additional year of full time education.

Purpose

Properly designed homework can play a valuable part in a pupil's education.

- It offers opportunities for work which is independent of the teacher
- It can exploit materials and sources of information which are not accessible in the classroom
- It allows pupils to complete work started in School and to practise skills learned in class
- It permits the setting of tasks suitable to individual students and it can help to strengthen links between home and school, involving the parent in their child's learning
- Homework can invite pupils to pursue their own lines of enquiry on particular topics and provide them with the valuable experience of working by themselves.
- It helps to counter the argument that learning is confined within the walls of the classroom
- Regular completion of homework is essential if a pupil wishes to realise his or her full potential.

Parental Involvement

We ask parents to support us in seeing that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions. A room where your child can study quietly and comfortably without distractions is the ideal. There are many ways in which you can encourage and support your child in the completion of homework:

- By checking the presentation of the work, including spelling & handwriting
- By testing what has been set to be learned
- By listening to, and reading what has been written
- By asking for explanations about the subject being studied.

Try to have available a few books which can be consulted e.g. dictionary, atlas, encyclopaedia. Items of equipment... pens, pencils, a calculator etc, should also be readily available. Check through your child's journal, see that all the work has been done and then sign it.

Pupil Journals

Time will be allowed during the lesson for the completion of your child's journal. It is important that it is filled in correctly and kept up to date as it is a valuable record for staff, pupils and parents.

If the work is set to last over a number of homework allocations this should be clearly marked in the journal at the time the work is set.

Parents are asked to check their child's Journal and sign it on a weekly basis, adding any comments they may feel appropriate.

Homework Requirements

The nature of homework itself makes it more difficult to organise and control than classwork. It is not only undertaken without the direct supervision of a teacher but it is also subject to pressure from other activities and it takes place in a variety of home conditions. For these reasons it is not possible to state precise amounts of time which should be allocated. As guidance, however, students in Years 7-9 should be set approximately between 7 and 10 hours per week, and in Years 10 & 11 between 10 and 15 hours per week.

GCSE's

The demands of GCSE coursework make it necessary to set homework in advance and therefore a degree of flexibility is necessary. A timetable of GCSE assignment deadlines will normally be drawn up for pupils and parents.

A WORD OF WARNING! While we like to encourage parents to become involved in helping their children with homework, GCSE assignments demand that the work submitted should be that of the pupil only. To help your child directly with aspects of GCSE assignments will infringe the examination regulations and could invalidate the work.

Parental Concerns

Communication is the key! If you are worried about any aspect of homework, for example too much or even too little on certain nights, or problems caused by other commitments then the following procedure should help...

- If there is a problem with one particular subject, then first contact the relevant Heads of Faculty
- If there is an overall problem with homework in a number of subjects then please contact the Learning Coordinator in charge of your child's Key Stage.

If you receive a communication from School (either a letter or a telephone call) we do ask that it is treated very seriously. If your child receives a Code of Conduct or a detention for failing to complete or present homework, we ask you to support our efforts to encourage your child to establish a normal homework routine. A deterioration in the quality of homework presented becomes the shared responsibility of both home and School/school.

Using homework to raise achievement

Homework allows extensive coverage of the curriculum, allowing more effective use of lesson time (helps to allow teachers to focus on activities which require direct teaching in lessons).

Homework improves pupils' study skills and attitudes to learning.
Homework increases independence in learning and responsibility for personal organisation and effectiveness.

Homework provides additional time for study to help teachers ensure more adequate coverage of syllabus/N.C. programmes of study, and to provide pupils with more opportunities to access pathways to attainment i.e. integral part of curriculum time – can increase curriculum time by the equivalent of an extra year in School.

Homework consolidates complements, enriches or extends classroom learning. Homework prepares/introduces future lessons. Homework requires pupils to use resources beyond the School.

Monitoring & Review:

Area Faculty Leaders are responsible for ensuring that homework is set in compliance with the school policy within their subject areas.

Teachers monitor the quality and completion of pupil homework and issue appropriate sanctions if it is not completed.

Pupils' views are ascertained during **Senior Leadership** tracking intervention and monitoring interviews which are scheduled throughout the academic year.