



Aylestone Business and Enterprise College Homework Policy 2014

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Author: C Hendry, Assistant Head Enrichment and Empowerment
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Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education." - 1999 White Paper, *Excellence in Schools*

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.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils 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.

Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' 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.

Aims-

Homework enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Faculty Homework Policy Statement

- All faculties have a homework policy statement, detailing:
 - When homework will be set
 - How much homework should be set.
 - Types of homework used.
 - Place of homework in the scheme of work.
 - Sanctions for unsatisfactory work.
 - How and by whom homework will be monitored.
 - Faculty Development Plans may include homework as an area for action.

Expectations: How much and by whom?

Key Stage 3	Minimum Time allocated per week		
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Subject			
English	30 min + 30 min reading	30 min	45 min
Maths	30 min	30 min	45 min
Science	30 min	30 min	45 min

Humanities	30 min	30 min	45 min
Communications	30 min	30 min	45 min
PE	3 x 20 min of exercise causing increase in heart rate		
Technology, Art & Music	Homework will be set as half termly projects.		

Key Stage 4 Subject	Minimum Time allocated per week	
	Year 10	Year 11
English	60 min	60 min
Maths	60 min	60 min
Science	60 min	60 min
ICT	30 min	30 min
PE	3 x 20 min of exercise causing increase in heart rate	
Option Subjects	60 min per week, per subject as appropriate	

National average

Year 7 & 8 = 45 - 90 minutes a day
Year 9 = 60 - 120 minutes a day
Year 10 & 11 = 90 - 150 minutes a day

When will homework be set?

This is decided by each Faculty area in collaboration with the Senior Leadership Team. On completion of the school timetable, Faculties submit their requirements to their Link SLT. The Senior Leader in charge of homework then prepares and issues the school homework timetables to staff to share with pupils in their planner.

Homework tasks

Homework can be:

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class/Revising
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of course work assignments
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording

Rewards

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Merits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home.

Consequences

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the pupil and ensure the tasks set meet the pupil's needs. If this is so, then consequences should be used. Teachers receive support from their Head of Faculty. The sanctions are as follows:

1. Class teacher - discussion and negotiation with pupil, C1 imposition, informing parents via diary or C1 slip.
2. Head of Faculty - discussion and negotiation with referred pupil, C2 imposition, informing parents by diary or C2 slip and letter to parents if necessary.
3. Tutors - through fortnightly monitoring of diaries, identifying pupils with homework problems across several curriculum areas and refers to Achievement Coordinator. Achievement Coordinator discusses and negotiates with pupil, (and parents) applies sanction or support where appropriate.
4. Achievement Coordinator refers pupil to Student Services Team or Link SLT in the case of a persistent offender.

Responsibilities

The role of the pupil:

- To have planner on desk in all classroom based lessons as routine
- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the planner.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give of their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor

- To include homework in pupil 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 planner by parents.

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 timetable.
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework promptly.
- Provide help and support.
- Inform the parent, Head of Faculty, Tutor and Achievement Coordinator, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of the Head of Faculty

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
- Monitor and evaluate setting and completion of homework across the faculty to ensure consistency and compliance with the school policy

The role of the Achievement Coordinator

- To work with Form Tutors to support students when identified with homework issues across a number of faculties
- To monitor the setting of homework across faculties for their year group
- To monitor the use of the planner in Form Tutor/parent communications
- Use regular link meetings to discuss with link SLT homework, use of planners and any need for student services support.

The role of the Senior Leader in charge of homework

- To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school.
- To review annually the school homework policy.
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy.

The role of the Parents

The role of the parent 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:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
5. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
6. Signing the homework planner each week.
7. Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

Withington

- All children have a Learning Log which is given out on a fortnightly basis, there are 6 stickers each half term. the stickers have activities on them related to the topics eg - We are learning about underwater creatures. Can you use a range of media to create an underwater world.
- All children should be reading every night, they can change their books on a daily basis.
- Weekly spellings will also be introduced from September 2014 in all classes apart from reception