



Fazakerley High School



Homework Policy

2018

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1. Rationale and Aims

This policy has been produced to provide a coherent framework from which all faculties can develop a consistent and effective approach for pupils of all ages and levels of ability. Homework is seen as one of the principal ways in which pupil achievement can be raised. Research by the Education Endowment Foundation shows that regular homework at secondary school age can lead to pupils making five to eight months progress beyond those not completing homework.

The benefits of doing homework must be instilled at an early age in all pupils, so that independent home study becomes routine.

The aim of Fazakerley High School's Homework Policy is to:

- develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school
- make sure that teaching staff, parents/carers and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regard to homework
- ensure that parents/carers have clarity on what their child is expected to do
- encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study
- support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement
- work with parents/carers and involve them in their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work their child is covering
- use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment
- improve the quality of the learning experiences by extending it beyond the classroom
- give pupils further practice and deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

2. Purpose of Homework

There are various reasons for setting homework:

- to develop a sense of curiosity in pupils relating to the subjects they are learning and encourage independent enquiry
- to encourage and develop self-discipline, resilience, study habits and a range of skills in planning and organising time
- to allow reinforcing, extending and consolidating of work done in class
- to give pupils experience of working on their own, and to develop in pupils a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning
- to involve parents/carers as partners in education
- to prepare for test / examinations
- to further challenge and extend pupils' learning beyond the classroom.

3. Setting Homework Tasks

Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable. In general, at Key Stage 3 pupils should be issued with one homework task per week for each subject. This may take the form of individual weekly tasks or a booklet with a variety of tasks set over a number of weeks. At Key Stage 4 homework may involve weekly set tasks but it may also comprise of work which contributes towards coursework. Pupils will also be required to attend after school classes in year 10 and 11 to support exam preparation and completion of coursework.

Where tasks are set that involve the need for the use of computers or the internet pupils must be given the opportunity by the class teacher to complete the task in a school homework club either after school or at lunchtime.

Pupils should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set.

Homework should be recorded in pupils' planners written on the date it is due to be handed in. Teachers can communicate to parents that homework has / has not been completed via comments written in the pupil planner where necessary.

4. Types of Homework

Practise exercises – providing pupils with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- consolidation exercises
- practising for mastery
- revising information about a current topic
- practising words or phrases learned in a language other than English
- learning the spellings and meanings of new subject specific keywords
- reading for pleasure
- essay writing.

Preparatory homework including flipped learning – providing opportunities for pupils to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- background reading of provided information before the topic is taught in the lesson
- researching topics independently
- collecting items / images.

Extension assignments – encouraging pupils to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- writing
- making or designing something
- investigations
- researching
- information and retrieval skills e.g. using a home computer to find material on the internet.

5. Responsibilities

The Role of the Assistant Headteacher:

- Ensure all parents/carers have access to the Homework policy via the school website.
- Ensure new pupils and parents/carers are made aware of the homework policy.
- Ensure that homework tasks are being set in accordance with the school policy.
- Frequently check that pupils are recording homework in their planners.
- Support parents / carers with information about homework when requested.

The Role of the Director of Study:

- Ensure all teachers in the department are setting suitable homework tasks that challenge and engage.
- Ensure homework tasks are set regularly in line with the Homework Policy.

The Role of the Progress Lead:

- Check pupils' planners weekly to ensure that pupils are recording homework.
- Communicate with the class teacher if a parent/carer has made a comment that requires a response from the teacher.

The Role of the Class Teacher:

- Plan and set up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Provide an explanation of homework tasks and ensure all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensure all homework given is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Set homework that is appropriate to the child's ability.
- Monitor homework regularly and make sure pupils are completing it.
- Mark homework and give feedback to pupils where required.
- Communicate with parents/carers if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Be available for discussion if necessary to parents and pupils about homework.
- Set homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensure homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Reward quality work and praise children who regularly complete homework.

The Role of Parents/Carers:

- Support their child in completing homework.
- Become involved in their child's homework and encourage their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Make sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Provide suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praise their child and celebrate achievements with regard to their homework.
- Inform teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution.
- Keep the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and homework.
- Encourage their child to discuss homework with them.

The Role of Pupils:

- Record the homework set in their planner.
- Take responsibility for their learning and submit completed work on time.
- Have a positive approach towards homework.
- Put the same effort into homework as would be expected of class work.
- Make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seek clarification if required.
- Ensure that they have everything they need to complete homework.
- Take pride in the presentation and content of their homework and perform to a high personal standard.
- Be proactive and request extra activities beyond the homework set where they have an interest.

6. Failure to Complete Homework

All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework. If a pupil fails to complete homework they will be required to complete a resolution time where they can complete the homework task.

7. Checklist for Helping Your Child with Homework

- ✓ Communicate to your child that you value education and that homework is an important way of supporting and extending learning which develops independent study skills.
- ✓ Set a regular time every day for homework.
- ✓ Ensure your child has paper, books, pens, pencils and other equipment needed to do homework.
- ✓ Provide a quiet place where your child can do their homework.
- ✓ Encourage your child to develop good study habits (e.g. scheduling enough time for big assignments).

- ✓ Do you know what your child's homework tasks are and when they are due in?
- ✓ Do you see that tasks are started and completed?
- ✓ Are TV viewing, gaming or use of a mobile phone cutting into your child's homework time?
- ✓ Do you check your child's homework diary on a regular basis? You can communicate with the class teacher / Progress Lead by writing a message in the planner.
- ✓ Do you talk with your child about homework tasks?
- ✓ Do you and your child talk about plagiarism and its consequences?
- ✓ Talk with someone at school if problems arise.