

# Home Learning Policy

## Aim

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important, since it gives pupils the opportunity to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school. It also helps children to become confident and independent in their learning, which will help throughout their time at school, and in adult life.

## Procedures

- Home learning must be a positive and motivational experience and is not used simply for finishing off work carried out in class.
- At KS3, each subject sets a home learning activity, on average, every third lesson. Tasks are both relevant and manageable and have clear objectives that are linked to schemes of work. Departments may choose to develop a bank of assignments which teachers can use as appropriate. At KS4, departments set home learning activities at least once per week. For post-16 students' the time spent on home studies depends on the nature of the programmes they are studying.
- The nature of the activity will depend on the age and ability of the pupils. The various learning styles should be catered for in each department's programme. Examples of home learning activities include research, reworking, revision, skill consolidation, reading, designing, drafting, report writing, essay writing, investigations, interviews, making models, drawing, word processing, desktop publishing projects.
- The SEN Co-ordinator will collaborate with subject teachers at their request to ensure that home learning activities are manageable.
- There is always positive recognition of completed home learning. Pupils are given prompt and appropriate feedback. Effective marking and feedback are fundamental in helping pupils make progress. It is possible to design activities that do not make heavy demands on teachers. Peer and self-assessment can be used in the feedback process.
- Each faculty has procedures to manage pupils who do not complete their home learning successfully.
- The LRC is available to pupils after school for the completion of home learning activities should these involve the use of IT resources they do not have at home or if they simply require an environment conducive to learning.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- All pupils are given a planner to note their home learning activities. Parents and carers sign the planner to show that they have checked that these activities have been completed. This keeps them informed and involved in pupil learning. Form tutors sign the planners on a weekly basis to monitor its use.
- The SEN Co-ordinator monitors the appropriateness of home learning activities set for pupils on the SEN Register.

- Heads of Department / Faculty undertake homework reviews in conjunction with the Senior Learning Mentor. The purpose of these reviews is to enable an overview of a range and quality of homework set, to help the department with evaluation, to monitor the frequency of homework set, and to investigate and report on how pupils are coping. This process can involve discussions with pupils as well as teachers.
- Individual teachers are responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the home learning activities that are set. They share their findings at departmental / faculty meetings.