

St. Mark's Church of England Academy



Homework Policy

2017/18

Purposes of Homework:

There are various reasons for choosing to set homework at the Academy:

- To encourage and develop self-discipline, study habits and enable students to be independent learners.
- To allow reinforcing, extending and consolidation of work completed in lessons.
- To give students the 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 in the education experience.
- To fully prepare for exams and assessments.
- To further extend our able, gifted and talented provision.
- To provide focused and sustained support for the less able or SEN students.

The Principles underlying the Homework policy:

Students must take full responsibility for their homework and should be supported by their parents and/or carers. Usually students will have a week to complete a piece of homework.

At Key Stage 3 (year 7&8), expectations are that students should spend between 20-30 mins on each subject each week, except for Maths and English which will be 1 hour. For some subjects, this homework might be half termly project based.

At Key stage 4 (years 9,10&11), expectations are that students should spend around one hour per week per subject – around 7 hours per week in total for most students, except for Maths and English which will be 2 hours.

At Key stage 5 (years 12&13), expectations are that students should spend around 5 hours a week per subject.

Homework should be carefully planned and an integral part of the course. It should not be seen as a 'add on' and should be part of the long term plan and scheme of work.

Homework should match the needs and abilities of all pupils.

Homework should promote opportunities for consolidations.

Homework should relate to current work and is stimulating and challenging.

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

Homework should involve all members of each year group.

Homework should not be restricted to certain subject areas. It should reflect our broad and balanced curriculum.

Types of Homework:

Practice Exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercises. *e.g memorising time tables in maths.*
- Practising for mastery *e.g spelling words.*
- Revising information about a current topic.
- Practicing words or phrases learned in a language other than English
- Reading for pleasure
- Essay writing

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

- Background reading
- Reading *e.g English text for a class discussion.*
- Researching topics for a class unit of work.
- Collecting items *e.g geometric shapes.*

Extension Assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Writing *e.g a book review*
- Making or designing somethings *e.g art work*
- Investigation *e.g science or social science*
- Researching *e.g history, local news*
- Information retrieval skills *e.g using a home computer to find material on the internet.*
- Monitoring *e.g advertising in particular newspapers.*

School Practice:

SLT will monitor homework through discussions during their line management meetings with their HOD's. SLT will ensure that the whole school policy is embedded firmly in the department provision and that the provisions are regularly monitored and reviewed.

- SLT will take responsibility of informing parents of the homework policy through the school website, presentations at parents evening and letters home.
- SLT will provide a homework club or similar for those students who are unable to complete work at home or have access to computers to ensure that all students are able to successfully fulfil their homework obligation.

- Triangulate Showmyhomework records with practice seen during lesson observations, marking reviews, learning walks and pupil voice.

Heads of departments will ensure that members of their teams are setting quality, relevant homework, marking it appropriately and using effective praise and sanctioning techniques to instil a sense of value in the work.

- HOD's will ensure that homework has been planned for in all schemes of work.
- Update their department handbook to explain their own homework policy based on whole school policy and practice.
- Prepare, implement and monitor realistic and manageable homework programmes.
- Report on homework within their faculty half termly, using Showmyhomework
- Triangulate Showmyhomework records with practice seen during lesson observations, marking reviews, learning walks and pupil voice.

Class Teachers

- Issue, monitor and assess homework regularly and record it on Showmyhomework.
- Mark homework to a high standard and give students the opportunity to respond to the feedback where appropriate.
- Award positives on SIMS for all high quality homework submissions.
- Create differentiated homework tasks where appropriate.
- Follow the whole school policy if homework is not completed on time.
- Use online marking, peer and self-assessment where appropriate.
- Encourage students to record homework in planners.

The Coach

- Regularly check to see which students have recently received negatives on SIMS for no/poor quality homework, and challenging them as to the reasons why.
- Place on report students that are regularly not completing homework.
- Meet with parents if students regularly fail to complete homework in a number of subjects.
- Checking that students and parents can log in to Showmyhomework and providing updated details where necessary.

The role of the Parents and Carers:

Parents/carers should appreciate that homework is an important activity and that they have a key role to play in ensuring that homework will be completed to the best of the ability of their child. Parents/carers are encouraged to provide practical support to the learners by;

- Logging in to www.Showmyhomework.co.uk or using the Showmyhomework app to see which pieces of work have been set as often as possible, especially at times when students would normally be doing homework

- Encouraging and taking an interest in the homework that is set.
- Providing an appropriate place where homework can be completed.
- If you are unable to log in to Showmyhomework, please email Mr Hampton: lhampton@stmarksacademy.org.uk

The Role of the Pupils:

Pupils will:

- Recognise the value of homework and made aware of its capacity to improving learning.
- Be encouraged to use Showmyhomework to ensure that their workload is as evenly spread as possible.
- Meet the expectations of staff that homework will be completed and returned on time.
- Make use of the support available to them.
- Record homework in planners

Sanctions for missing homework deadlines:

As with any sanctioning structure, students and all involved with the homework policy must be clear of the steps that will need to be taken if homework is late or not of a high enough standard.

If a student fails to hand in their homework or complete it to a sufficient standard,

1. The students will receive a behaviour point on SIMS for 'No Homework/ Poor quality homework'. They will be given a teacher detention.
2. If they fail to complete the work in the detention or attend the detention, the students will be issued with a HOD detention.