



Golborne
HIGH SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Adopted by Governing Body: 23rd March 2017

Reviewed & Readopted Date: 12th December 2018

Homework Policy

Introduction

This is the school's policy for the provision of homework to pupils.

We recognise the vital role that parents and carers play in the education of their child. We strongly believe in the value of a good home-school partnership and our homework policy reflects this.

Rationale

- There is widely accepted opinion, backed by research studies, that homework can improve pupil performance.
- Setting homework is part of the Teachers' Standards as outlined below:
'Teachers will set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired'
- The School Inspection Handbook in its grade descriptor for 'outstanding' teaching learning and assessment states;
'Teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates ;learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.'

Homework - a Definition

Homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to undertake outside of lesson time, either on their own or with the aid of parents or carers. We see work completed at home as a valuable part of a pupils' learning.

The Purpose of Homework

At Golborne High we believe that learning is not restricted to the activities and experiences that students have at school and during lessons. Learning is a life-long process both inside and outside of school. We believe that homework provides invaluable opportunities for students to engage with their learning outside of the classroom environment.

Homework therefore consolidates and extends learning that has taken place within lessons and gives students the opportunity to work independently and prepare for future lessons. Our aim is for this to be structured, meaningful and coherent for all concerned. Homework also gives parents the chance to support their child's progress and encourages dialogue about school experiences.

What is appropriate homework at Golborne?

"Homework must have a learning purpose and lead to progress on a pupil's pathway. It should either be responsive to the progress made in the lesson in which it is set, or should be designed to help pupils master skills or knowledge taught previously.

”Homework at Golborne High School should either

- Broaden
- Consolidate
- Extend or
- Master

When “revision” tasks are set, they must be accompanied by precise instructions on how to do this and clear signposting to the material that must be learnt.

As a school we encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities. Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be completed by pupils to the best of their ability. We expect that parents and carers will be willing to give their active support to ensure that work completed at home is done so conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

Current Practice

Time to be Spent Completing Homework

Based on current good practice and previous DfE guidance, we endeavour to follow this guidance on the amount of time that we ask pupils to spend on their homework. These guidelines are listed below:

Year 7 & 8:	at least 45 - 90 minutes per day
Year 9:	at least 1 - 2 hours per day
Year 10 & 11:	at least 1.5 - 2.5 hours per day

Pupils may be expected to undertake a variety of homework activities. These activities will differ depending on the teacher and subject. Examples include reading tasks, numeracy tests, spelling tests, quizzes, project work, extended writing and research activities.

As a general rule, teachers *will not* usually set substantial homework tasks to be completed for the next day, pupils will have at least two days to complete any work set.

Making Homework Effective

The school uses the Show My Homework calendar to set homework. The Show My Homework calendar makes it easy for our school to effectively track and monitor the impact of homework. For our teachers, it provides an easy way to set and communicate homework details. For parents, it will provide visibility and transparency regarding the homework details and deadlines your child has received from the school.

The school homework calendar can be accessed by pupils and parents without login details at any time by going to the school website and clicking the homework link. In addition you can use the link below to go directly to the school homework calendar.

<https://golbornehigh.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar>

Pupils, teachers and parents can use the filters to find the homework that has been set. All teachers will be expected to set homework using Show My Homework. However, on the odd occasion, such as absence or technical issues this may not be possible. The school log books will still be used by pupils to write brief details of the homework down. Show my Homework allows for a more detailed description of the task, where appropriate. Relevant resources may also be added.

Pupils and parents/carers will receive either a username and password or a PIN from the school. By logging in, you are presented with a personalised homework calendar. For pupils, this will allow you to see homework relevant to you. For parents, you will be able to see what homework your child has received.

There is also a free iOS and Android app for teachers, pupils and parents to download. Downloading the app will provide push notifications and reminders about new homework set and deadlines.

The school will use a variety of reports to ensure homework is set with purpose, is good quality and is set consistently and effectively across the school.

Pupil Feedback

The school recognises the importance of providing prompt and actionable feedback to pupils, parents and carers. Feedback will include how well homework tasks have been tackled, and the knowledge, skills and understanding developed. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback, such as an appropriate Attitude to Learning (ATL) grade or area for improvement. Quizzes, spelling tests and numeracy tests will provide pupils with immediate feedback. Some more lengthy tasks may be marked using SEE IT as appropriate.

Expectations and Support

Teachers are expected to:

- Set time aside during lessons for homework to be fully explained and written into log books
- Set homework on Show my Homework
- Ensure that pupils have a paper copy of any homework sheets
- Allow enough time for the homework to be completed to an acceptable standard. This includes avoiding overnight homework whenever possible.
- Provide additional support with homework if requested by the pupil or parent.
- Give clear feedback. This may involve providing the opportunity for peer assessment or individual reflection on their progress.

Students are expected to:

- Listen to homework instructions in class and record them accurately in log books.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability and hand it in on time.
- Inform the class teacher if they are having any difficulties with the work, well before the deadline date.

Parents can support by:

- Discussing homework with their child in order to help and encourage them, particularly with the basics of reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. (Please ensure that homework is the work of the student and avoid helping with homework to the extent that it is no longer a true reflection of the student's work.)
- Checking their child's homework when it has been completed – insist on high standards of presentation in diagrams and written work.
- Notifying the school of any issues or problems that may prevent the completion of homework.

Rewards and Sanctions

If we are to truly see homework as an extension of the learning experience that occurs in school, then we have to measure the effort and application put in by pupils in the same way as we would in our classrooms. That means we will praise good effort, award achievement points and send e-cards to pupils who apply themselves successfully to the task set. We will also employ sanctions, where appropriate, for failure to produce what is expected.

Reviewing the Policy

The homework policy will be reviewed annually. Where significant changes to the policy are felt to be required, proposals will be presented to the governing body and parents consulted.