

PERRYFIELDS HIGH SCHOOL

"Together We Achieve Excellence"



Homework Policy

Title: Homework			
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Perryfields High School

Homework Policy

Rationale

“Between the ages of 5 and 16 children spend only 15% of their lives in school, so supporting them at home really improves their chances of success. Parents and families are by far the most important influences on children’s lives.”

Perryfields High School believes that an effective homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. 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, pupils can attend a supervised “homework club” and complete homework in the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) from 3:15pm until 4:00pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 2:15pm until 3:00pm on a Wednesday.

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.

Homework is part of a range of ‘out of class tasks’ that build on classroom activities including study support and other events traditionally regarded as extracurricular. Homework is recognised as having an important role to play in the education of pupils and evidence suggests that it can be equivalent to an additional year of study over the course of a secondary career.

Aims and Benefits of Homework

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

Homework contributes greatly to the empowerment of children and young people to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident individuals
- Responsible citizens
- Effective contributors

Good Practice When Setting Homework

Effective homework should:

- Provide an opportunity for pupils to showcase their independence and the skills they have acquired in the classroom
- Unless project based (where specific weekly targets for work can be set), homework should consolidate and extend work done in class
- Be appropriate to the ability of the individual
- Be varied in nature, both in terms of outcome and skills developed
- Provide an opportunity to research and develop other areas of knowledge

Amount of Homework

Key Stage Three

- English, Maths, Science and MFL 2x per week
- All other subjects 1x per week
- Each homework should be up to 20 minutes long (can be longer for year 9 in preparation for their GCSE courses)

Key Stage Four

- All subjects 2x per week
- Each homework should be up to 45 minutes long (30 minute minimum expectation)
- Exam related homework e.g. past paper questions, analysis of mark schemes/examiner reports- should be set on a regular basis from the beginning of year 10. It will not always be possible to set one of these types of homework per week, but this would be an ideal

Key Stage Five

- Students should be mirroring the amount of time spent in lessons outside of it – i.e. 5 hours per week per subject
- Much of this work can be reading and making notes from set reading lists (including online journals) in preparation for the next or to consolidate learning from the lesson
- Any written work should regularly incorporate exam/assessment specific skills – e.g. past paper questions/essay questions with time specific limits in relation to the exam length

Setting Homework

To ensure, as far as possible, that there is an equitable spread across the two week timetable, staff and departments will be setting homework based on a “two day grace” system. This process has been adopted from by many Outstanding schools nationally and allows the pupils more time to plan and complete homework to a high standard whilst also empowering them to take responsibility for organising themselves. The two day grace system is simple and straightforward – staff must provide all pupils with at least two days to complete homework. For example, if homework is set on a Monday, the earliest it can be requested is a Wednesday.

At the start of the term the class teacher is expected to share with their group when homework will be set, ensure that it is copied into the correct page in the pupil planner and for tutor’s need to check diaries weekly to confirm homework is being set.

Roles

The Role of the Teacher

- To communicate the expectations of the homework policy to learners in their classes
- It is essential that teaching staff set homework according to the homework timetable. Only in exceptional and temporary circumstances should staff move homework to another day and this should be explained to learners
- Teachers (supported by a TA where applicable) should check that homework is accurately recorded within student planners
- Teachers should be as explicit as possible (e.g. when the work is due in, expected outcomes / model examples)
- On the rare occasions homework is not set this should be recorded within the planner
- Feedback on homework should be in accordance with the whole school Assessment and Marking policy
- To reward Sleuth points for learners that regularly display good homework practice (e.g. meeting deadlines, excellent effort, quality produced)

The Role of the Learner

- to record homework set in their planner
- to complete homework by the deadline set and to the best of their ability
- to engage and co-operate with teaching staff and other adults around school in all matters relating to homework

Form Tutor, HOD, PAL and SLT

- to ensure that students are filling out planners appropriately and these are being signed by parents (F/T , PAL, SLT)
- F/T to report any issues to the HOF relating to homework not being completed on a regular basis across numerous subjects
- F/T to report to the PAL any issues relating to homework not being set so that the PAL can communicate with the HOD and/or SLT line manager
- HOD and SLT line manager monitor that homework is being set by members of their department and that subsequent work is being marked, returned within a reasonable timeframe and marked in accordance with the whole school Assessment and Marking policy

The role of the Parents

At Perryfields High School we recognise that parents and carers make a real difference to children's education. When parents and the school work together in partnership, children perform better. Children learn a great deal at school. Parents and carers add to that by supporting the learning at home. Demonstrating an interest in, and discussing their homework with them, helps children recognise and value

learning as a lifelong process. 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 play is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
5. Signing the homework planner each week.
6. Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

Failure to complete homework

Any system to ensure the completion of homework must ultimately involve working in partnership with parents/carers and the pupils involved.

If a pupil fails to complete the homework set, subject teachers need to use their discretion as to when to engage the behaviour policy. It is advised that if the failure is a first time offence, a one off or extremely rare for that pupil, the pupil should be given until the following day to hand the homework in. If, however, the lack of adherence to homework deadlines is a regular occurrence for individuals (i.e. two or more times in a half term) then the behaviour procedures need to be adopted (i.e. a 30 minute detention set and either a note in the diary or a phone call home and a SLEUTH email sent home. Failure to attend the HOD detention will end in a whole school detention, set by the department's SLT line manager).

For the most persistent offenders; form tutors, HOFs and HODs need to become involved to monitor all aspects from recording to completing homework and liaise with parents/carers to negotiate a resolution to the issue.

Frequently Asked Questions about Homework by Parents

We have received questions and queries from parents and carers concerning a variety of aspects regarding homework. We have summarised these below in what we hope will be a helpful guide which will enable you to further support your son/daughter.

1. 'What is my role in homework?'

Encouragement is a major role. Ensure that your child manages and copes with the workload. Sit with them. Talk to them about the tasks. If youngsters verbalise their learning they are more likely to retain the knowledge.

2. 'I'm busy and don't have time to help. What can I do?'

It's not essential that you sit with them and work alongside them, but showing an interest is imperative. Ask them what tasks they're undertaking tonight and sound enthusiastic!

3. 'I can't help because education has changed since I was at school. I don't know what my child is taught.'

You can support by appearing interested in school: reading the school newsletter; attend parents' evenings. Generally show an interest in school. Check the school website.

4. 'I don't know enough about a specific topic to help my child. How can I help?'

Youngsters thrive on rewards and encouragement. Maybe look at some information together. Help collect information. Supporting is an excellent way of helping.

5. 'It's noisy and there's no space at home'

The school has a homework club which runs from 3:15-4:00 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and Wednesday 2:15 – 3:00 in the Learning Resource Centre. There are also opportunities at lunchtime to complete homework.

6. 'How much homework should my child be doing?'

The current homework timetable is on the school website and is written into your child's planner.

7. 'My child doesn't tell me about homework. What can I do?'

Look in the planner. Ask your son/daughter's form tutor. Ask them open questions about today's learning at school.

8. 'My child's homework is set irregularly and then doesn't get marked.'

The first thing to do would be to talk to your child and make sure of the facts. If there is an issue, tell us via the planner in the first instance, or directly via the Head of Family or Subject Leader.

9. 'All my child seems to do is finish off work done in class'

It is important from time to time to finish off class work. However, homework should take many forms. If you aren't sure – ask or send in a query via the student planner.

10. *'My child spends more time than is necessary on her homework.'*

Youngsters work at different speeds. However, if they are spending inordinate amounts of time on tasks make a note in their planner – or simply write='x has spent 30 minutes on this task'. The teacher will then take charge of the situation.

Finally.....

Homework is used to support class work. It is an attempt to help youngsters become independent learners and more importantly form a base of good practice which can be built on in future years. Perryfields High School regards homework as an integral part of the learning process. We hope you've found this guide useful. If you would like to make any suggestions for improvement please contact Mr Newman, Assistant Head Teacher.