

POLICY STATEMENT – HOMEWORK

Definition

“Homework” may be defined as any assignment set by a teacher which has to be completed outside lesson time. It is expected that teaching staff will normally set such work. In Years 7 to 9 this will be according to the published timetable. In Years 10 and 11 an outline of work expected to be completed outside lesson time will be published. The nature of the tasks set and their frequency will necessarily vary according to the course being followed and the age and ability of the pupils. As part of their normal record or work, staff must keep records of assignments set and ensure that pupils enter their homework in their log book.

Heads of Subject are responsible for detailing departmental guidelines on these assignments as part of their preparation of resources and syllabi. Their role also involves oversight of the working being set.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:-

1. Encourage students to develop the practice of independent study and take more responsibility for their own learning.
2. Encourage the use of sources not available in the classroom.
3. Allow practice of skills learned in class or otherwise reinforce what has been learned.
4. Enable more class time to be devoted to activities requiring the active presence of the teacher.
5. Facilitate more rapid progress through an agreed syllabus.
6. Develop the qualities of perseverance, self discipline and self organisation.
7. Encourage the active participation of parents and tutors in pupils’ programmes of work.

The Assignments

These assignments may take various forms. Some possibilities are:-

- a) Following up, consolidating or finishing work begun in class.
- b) Reading or research from books provided or other sources.
- c) Preparing for a future lesson.
- d) Learning, for a topic where factual recall is appropriate.

- e) Written exercise e.g. in Maths.
- f) Watching or listening to a programme.
- g) Asking questions of others.
- h) Participating in some kind of activity, or even looking at something in the environment!

Staff should note the following considerations:

Disabilities	- e.g. SLD
Cultural Factors	- particularly at times of year during certain festivals
Social Factors	- e.g. child carers

In such circumstances, it may be deemed appropriate to provide extra time for the completion of Homework Tasks.

Young people will only do such assignments if they are seen to be worthwhile and not just contrived. Textbooks or work sheets for each pupil will not necessarily be required. It is vital that the work be marked, checked, followed up in class or incorporated in the next piece of homework.

Implementation

The support of parents should be encouraged in the belief that a partnership between parents, teachers and the children is the best way to educate our young people. Tutors should regularly familiarise themselves with their pupils' work programmes, give guidance as needed and liaise with subject teachers when necessary.

These assignments have not got to be done at home. Use of the Library should be encouraged. Heads of Year may wish to set aside a quiet room at lunchtimes.