



Co-op Academy  
Bebington

# **Homework Policy 2019**

Agreed/Review by Governors March 2019

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. 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 require resources available at school, there are homework clubs after school supervised by our support staff or subject teachers. These are available to students of all ages and abilities.

Homework is of benefit for the following reasons:

- it reinforces and consolidates what has been learned in lessons, affording students the opportunity to practice and perfect their learning
- it is an opportunity for the further development of students' knowledge, skills and understanding.
- it prepares students for life-long learning into adulthood, by enabling them to draw on independent learning skills such as enquiry, investigation, initiative, time management and self- discipline
- it gives students the chance to undertake work not suited to ordinary lesson time and to exploit materials and sources of information not accessible in the usual teaching environment
- it strengthens home school liaison, developing the partnership between student, parent and teacher and keeping parents in touch with the nature of their child's/children's studies and methods
- it has been proven that students who regularly complete homework perform better in assessments.

Types of homework.

Homework can take many forms depending on specific needs of subjects and the needs of the students.

**Practice exercises** – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, e.g. consolidation exercises, finishing off work started in class, essay writing.

**Preparatory homework** – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a topic or skill so that they are better prepared for future lessons, e.g. background reading,

research, collecting items, watching clips on GCSE Pod / examples of practical skills being applied.

**Extension homework** - encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, e.g. extended writing, making or designing something, investigations, independent reading, exploring topics in GCSE Pod.

**Consolidation homework** – enabling students to consolidate their knowledge, understanding and application of skills in preparation for end of unit assessments, end of year exams and external exams, e.g. revision of a topic via GCSE Pod, consolidation quiz / questions, practice exam paper.

The number of tasks set will depend upon the amount of teaching time a subject has in the curriculum plan. However, on average, it is expected that the equivalent of one task per week per subject will be given, and that the deadline set will generally be in the range from a small number of days to one week, with the notable exception of coursework, in which case it is anticipated that interim deadlines will be identified.

As a minimum, depending on the demands of programmes of study at particular times of the school year, it would be expected that students should be in receipt of homework to occupy them as follows:

Years 7 & 8	- 1 to 1 and ½ hours per evening
Year 9	- 1 and ½ to hours per evening
Years 10 & 1	- 2 to 2 and ½ hours per evening
Years 12 & 13	- 5 hours' private study for each subject studied per week

It is the school's responsibility to:

- set regular, varied homework within the context of the needs of students and the arrangements of individual subjects
- ensure there is diagnostic and developmental feedback, whether from the teacher, a peer, the student him/herself or his/her parent
- provide access to study facilities, such as the library Learning Resource Centre, at lunchtime
- issue each student with a planner

- log the homework set in Classcharts and allocate time in the lesson to enable students to make a record of their homework in their Student Planners,
- inform parents in the event of a poor homework record and discuss how both the staff and the parent/s can support the child in securing the improvement needed.

It is each student's responsibility to:

- listen to homework instructions in class,
- write down instructions for the task and deadline date into their Student Planner,
- ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline,
- attempt all work and give their best,
- inform the classroom teacher of any difficulties promptly,
- respond to the school sanctions in a co-operative manner.
- Check class charts on a regular basis for any additional guidance regarding homework.

The role of the parent / carer is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through support, engagement and positive feedback will give pupils the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

- providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work,
- negotiating with the pupil when homework is to be done as a pupil's free leisure time is important too,
- checking the time spent on individual homework tasks,
- checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school,
- Checking ClassCharts and signing the Student Planner each week,
- providing the school with information about any problems through the Student Planner or by contacting the school directly,
- initiating and responding to the two-way communication via the Student Planner,
- supporting the student and the school in the implementation of the homework policy.

This policy is to be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis, through the schools QA cycle which includes:

- regular planner checks by Tutors, Pastoral Leaders and members of the Senior Management Team during registration time and Form Inspections

- discussion with students, parents and colleagues, at times such as council meetings and consultation evenings
- homework sampling, to evaluate the tasks set and the quality of the outcome