

HOME STUDY POLICY

1) A definition of home study

- Home study is work set to be completed outside of the normal school day. It contains an element of independent study and a requirement that pupils take responsibility for their personal organisation.
- Home study can be completed at school outside of normal curriculum hours if specialist resources or equipment is needed and/or if a suitable environment in which to complete it is not available at the pupil's home
- Home study enhances pupil learning, improves their independent study skills and develops their self-motivation and organisational skills. As an integral part of our curriculum, it therefore needs to be carefully planned into the schemes of work for each curriculum area.

2) The purposes of home study

- To encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own
- To allow pupils to learn key information in advance of their lessons (the Flipped Classroom)
- To consolidate and reinforce the skills and understanding developed at school
- To extend pupils' learning
- To sustain the involvement of parents in the support of their son or daughter's learning

3) The amount of home study

Home study will be set each week and published in a timetable to parents and pupils.

Quantities of home study each week:

Years 7 and 8 20-30 minutes per homework set for each subject 3-4hrs a week

Year 9, 10 & 11 45 – 60 minutes per homework set for each subject 7-8hrs a week

Years 12 & 13 Will be allocated 20 hours a week, some of which will be completed in their study periods

4) Exceptions to home study

It is expected that all subjects will set work for home study with the following exceptions

- In years 7-8, Music, PSCHEE, Citizenship, Drama, PE and ICT.
- In years 9-11, Core PE

5) Support for home study

It is recognised that some pupils will find home study challenging. To help pupils overcome the barriers to them completing home study, a range of support strategies can be put in place. These include:

- Advice and guidance from the pupil's tutor
- Specific targets aimed at developing skills and strategies for tackling home study
- Home study club – an in-school, supervised session to help provide an environment conducive to competing independent home study
- Extended deadlines
- Scaffolds and supportive instructions that explain and 'unpack' the task
- Differentiated home study that ensures that pupils have work that is appropriate to the level/grade they are working at
- In a few cases, reduced amounts of home study and/or disapplication from some subjects. This would only be done in consultation with parents and in circumstances that indicated that the pupil in question was unable to cope with the expectations outlined above.
- Learning Support

6) Types of home study

The work set for pupils to complete at home may vary in type. It might be a short activity to be completed in a single night, or a longer project to be completed over several weeks with a number of 'home study slots' providing the time for this to be done.

Home study tasks can include:

- Revision of key topics and themes
- Use of websites such as – but not restricted to – GCSE Pod, Mathswatch, Edmodo
- Preparation for presentations, videos or podcasts
- Extended reading in and around a topic

There should be high expectations of ALL pupils in completing home study.

7) Communicating home study requirements

Information regarding home study is communicated in the following way:

1. Work to be completed at home should be written into their planners by pupils and can then be shared with parents. Longer project type pieces of work should be recorded in each relevant slot in the diary for the duration of the project. Teachers can assist with this as necessary.
2. Where no work is set on a given day, but the home study timetable indicates that it should be set by that subject, 'none set' should be recorded in the planner.
3. Should parents and learning coaches/teachers wish to communicate with each other, there is a space for this to happen. Planners are checked at least once a week by a pupil's tutor and there is an expectation that parents sign to acknowledge that they are aware of the homework that has been set.

8) Responsibilities regarding the setting and monitoring of homework

Pupils have responsibility to

- Listen to and record home study instructions accurately and in full
- Complete their home study tasks on time and to the best of their ability. Non-completion will result in a 60 minute detention with the subject leader.

- Ask for help

Parents have a responsibility to

- Assist their child with their homework or to ask the school to provide access to members of staff/facilities that can help their child with homework. This can best be done via e-mail communication with the appropriate learning coach or subject teacher.

A class teacher has responsibility to

- Set worthwhile tasks to be completed at home in accordance with the subject and school home study policies. Feedback on homework can be given in a variety of ways – written, verbal, individually or whole class. Not all homework will be formatively or summatively marked, especially in the case of exam/assessment revision, but must be completed to the best of the student's ability.
- Differentiate and scaffold homework accordingly. Provide help as appropriate.
- Follow up with an appropriate sanction (such as a detention) when a pupils fails to complete their home study tasks.
- Accurately complete progress checks and raise any concerns regarding home study so that intervention strategies can be discussed and put into. Alternatively, teachers can communicate directly with home if a more immediate response is desired.
- To respond appropriately to any comment made in the pupil planner by a parent

Form tutors have a responsibility to

- Monitor that home study is being recorded appropriately
- Monitor that parents are signing the pupil planner regularly and as required
- To note and action any comments made in the pupil planner by parents

Subject leaders have a responsibility to

- Monitor the frequency and quality of home study tasks throughout the year and across Key Stages 3, 4, and 5.
- Ensure that teachers in their subject areas set the required amount of home study.
- Administer a weekly detention of 60 minutes to support the class teacher
- Ensure that three common homework tasks are provided each half term for each year group

Year Teams have a responsibility to

- Identify pupils that are finding the completion of home study difficult in a number of subjects and to put in place an appropriate intervention strategy.
- Ensure that all pupils and parents receive a Home study Timetable

The Senior Leadership Team have a responsibility to

- Ensure that a forum for the evaluation of the school's home study policy is made available on an annual basis and that the opinions of staff, pupils and parents are incorporated into any changes made as a result of this review process.
- Monitor the quality and provision of home study through line management meetings.