



Homework Policy

2022-2023

September 2022

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Rationale

Evidence shows that completion of high-quality homework tasks has a positive impact on pupils' learning. On average, a pupil's progress is improved by 5 months at secondary level (Education Endowment Foundation, August 2021).

Homework enables pupils to undertake independent learning, to practise and consolidate skills learnt in class, conduct in-depth enquiry, prepare for future lessons or revise for assessments.

Some of the benefits of completing homework effectively are listed below:

- Pupils develop key life skills such as independence and self-discipline. By encouraging routine and the formation of good habits pupils develop productive working practices for continued learning and independent working.
- Pupils are more likely to retain the information they have learned in the classroom.
- Parents are provided with a window into their child's learning. Research shows that children are more likely to be successful if their parents or carers engage in their learning.

Homework at Alder

The curriculum at Alder creates 'academically competitive students in Tameside' who are able 'to succeed in school and beyond'. Homework forms an integral part of our curriculum, enabling our pupils to make further progress and develop skills for future success. Furthermore, by encouraging pupils to take responsibility for their homework we are able to foster qualities of independence, resilience and excellence.

Our aims:

- To ensure homework contributes towards pupils' progress across the curriculum.
- To enable all pupils, including those with SEND, to access home learning tasks and to support those who may have difficulties completing work outside of school.
- To provide parents and carers with information regarding their child's homework.
- To equip pupils with the necessary skills to complete homework on time and to a very good standard.

Types of homework

Tasks may include:

- Creation of revision aids for assessments e.g. mind maps, flashcards, summary notes, knowledge organisers.
- Skills based tasks e.g. reading comprehension, analysis, problem solving.
- Focused investigation and research
- Learning information e.g. vocabulary, spellings
- Reading
- Revision
- Projects
- Writing or drafting essays and reports

Some staff may choose to upload homework tasks and resources to Microsoft Teams. This may be useful for parents or carers wishing to view their child's homework.

Our expectations

Pupils will take responsibility for their homework by:

- Recording information about homework set (subject, task, deadline). At Key Stage 3 this must be completed in the Student Planner.
- Completing homework to a very good standard and by the required deadline.
- Seeking support from their teacher if they have difficulty completing a task.
- Finding out whether homework has been set if they have been absent.
- Accessing in-school resources to complete homework if needed e.g. the school library

Teachers will:

- Provide regular, high quality homework tasks.
- Clearly set out the aims of homework tasks to pupils and set realistic deadlines for completion.
- Allow pupils time in the lesson to record details of homework set.
- Reward or sanction pupils accordingly for homework in their subject.
- Maintain records of homework set.

Curriculum Leaders will:

- Provide a clear overview of homework within their subject's curriculum.
- Ensure curriculum folders contain clearly identifiable homework tasks for each year group.
- Monitor the setting and recording of homework within their department.
- Support teachers within their department if a pupil is failing to comply with homework.

The Excellence Team will:

- Check homework is set in line with whole school curriculum expectations.
- Review Alder's homework policy (October 2022).

In school support:

- Pupils who wish to complete homework in school may use the library any day after school. The library is open until 3.45pm and is supervised by the school Librarian, Ms Glynn. This is a comfortable, quiet working space where pupils can access a wide range of reading material and laptops if required.
- Some students needing additional support may be invited to attend the SEN homework club. This takes place every Wednesday, 2.45pm until 3.45pm, and is run by a member of staff from the SEN department.

Rewards

Teachers will award Alder excellence points to pupils who produce high quality homework. Pupils who consistently demonstrate excellence on their homework in one or more subjects, may be nominated for the Alder Homework badge.

Sanctions for non-completion of homework or unsatisfactory homework:

Teachers will log on SIMS if a pupil has not met homework expectations within their subject and will notify parents/carers by text message. Pupils will be required to complete or re-do the task according to the new deadline set by their teacher. Three late or unsatisfactory homework tasks within a subject will trigger a letter home. Pupils will be expected to show an improvement on their homework in that subject area following communication with home.