



Home Learning Policy

C011

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Prosper Learning Trust is a Multi Academy Trust

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1. Introduction

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education".

-1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools

Chorlton High School recognises that **Home Learning** is a key factor in supporting the 5-year learning journey for our students. Excellent learning habits such as organisation, prioritisation and practice enable students to be independent learners equipped for success in all they do.

Home learning 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; it enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' 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.

Not all home learning is completed at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it may be necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

2. Aims and Principles

2.1 Home learning enables students:

- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- To consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- To show progress and understanding.
- To develop research skills.
- To have an opportunity for independent work to extend their learning further.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To access resources not available in the classroom.
- To share their learning with their parents and carers.
- To practice exam style questions
- To get instant feedback (from some online packages)
- To improve ICT skills

2.2 **Home Learning Principles:**

1. **Regular routines** are driven using the Home Study 'PLAN' process. This supports students to student develop time management, self-discipline, and organisation skills. The **CHS Scholar routines** are supported, as students focus on habits for effective independent learning and self-regulation. The organisation of books is crucial as students can extend and revisit their notes.
2. **Effective learning design** is used by teachers **to support retrieval practice**. Consolidating, practising, and reinforcing the learning through spaced revisiting and interleaving of topics so that their knowledge is **secure**.

3. **Knowledge toolkits** are provided for students in each subject. Teachers will support students to use these to self-evaluate their strengths and areas for development and activate their study habits. These will help students both **secure key knowledge** and to **extend their learning**, encourage curiosity and study at a greater depth.
4. **Digital learning** is used to support students home learning and teacher workload through a number of online packages. To support students who may not have resources at home, there is provision in school through homework clubs and the library. Class teachers are alert to lookout for which students may need support in managing their home study demands.
5. **Regular communication with home** is encouraged for sharing the expectations between teachers, students and parents. Regular communication through home learning effort grades, the use of rewards and parent communication recognises good routines and pinpoints improvement in a timely manner when required.
6. **Home Reading** is an important aspect of home learning as it encourages a wider knowledge base and an understanding of the wider world. Students are expected to read for at least an hour a week and we recommend five times a week for at least 20 minutes. Subject teachers will encourage with signposting 'good reads' for their subject, incentivising and rewarding where appropriate.

3. The Nature of Home Learning

- 3.1 At Chorlton High School there are three key parts to 'homework':
 - **Home Learning.**
 - **Home Study.**
 - **Home Reading.**
- 3.2 **Home Learning:** Home learning is homework that is set by a class teacher and requires submission.
- 3.3 **Home Study:** This is preparation for tests and reflection and gap filling after progress tests. In the build up to our progress tests, non-examined assessments (NEAs) or any internal or external examinations, home learning becomes home study which is revision and/or independent enquiry.
- 3.4 **Home Reading:** We also encourage our students to devote time to home reading as this will give students a wider knowledge base and understanding of the world.

4. Home Learning Structure

- 4.1 We have mapped out approximate timings and frequencies of home learning tasks for each year group. The tasks will vary from subject to subject and the timings given are approximate.
- 4.2 Students should spend the recommended time on each task or until it is complete. Some students may complete tasks quicker than expected. We do not expect students to over-work and do all tasks to completion if they take longer than the recommended time.

- 4.3 An overview of Home Learning for each year group will be available on the school website. Whilst we endeavour to be as accurate as possible with frequencies and timings they may be subject to change over the course of an academic year.

4.3.1 Year 7:

- One hour of English/Maths/Science and reading per week.
- One hour of languages (French/Spanish) per week.
- Up to one hour per fortnight of each Humanity subject (Geography, History, EPR).
- Up to one hour per fortnight of Computing or Technology (students rotate between Computing and Technology (Food/D&T)).
- Termly Creative projects in Art.
- Termly task in Music.

4.3.2 Year 8:

- One hour of English/Maths/Science and reading per week.
- One hour of French or Spanish per week.
- Up to one hour per fortnight of each Humanity subject (Geography, History, EPR).
- Up to one hour per fortnight of Computing or Technology (students rotate between Computing and Technology (Food/D&T)).
- Termly Creative projects in Art.
- Termly task in Music.

4.3.3 Year 9:

- One hour of English/Maths/Science and reading per week.
- One hour of French or Spanish per week.
- Up to one hour per fortnight of each Humanity subject (Geography, History, EPR).
- Up to one hour per fortnight of Computing.
- Up to one hour per fortnight of Technology (students rotate between Food and D&T).
- Termly Creative project in the chosen Art Elective Subject.
(Art/Dance/Drama/Music/Music Technology).

4.3.4 Year 10 and 11:

- One and a half hours of English/Maths/Science per week.
- One and half hours of a Language per week.
- Up to 2 hours per fortnight of a Humanity (Geography, History, RE).
- Up to 2 hours per fortnight of an Option Subject.

- 4.4 Before our Progress Tests or any internal or external examinations the emphasis shifts to **home study**. In the weeks leading up to the test, the home study tasks should be based around revision and preparation. In the weeks after the test, the home study task should aim to fill any gaps identified in feedback after the test.

- 4.5. **Home Reading:** We recommend that students widely and often. Any reading is beneficial to

students so we recommend reading anything from books to comics, newspapers to scholarly journals. Class teachers may supply lists of books and journals for further reading.

5. Reporting

Home Learning is reported through a **Home Learning Effort** grade. Staff are to use their professional judgement when assigning effort grades for written work. These judgments are made through looking at submission rates, dates of submission, scores and any other meaningful data that would give an insight into how the child has approached the work. Scores may fluctuate with ability so staff must differentiate accordingly.

6. Responsibilities

6.1 The role of the student

- To listen to home learning instructions in class.
- To regularly check online for home learning and home study that has been assigned.
- To build the routine for good home learning and home study as promoted by teachers.
- To ensure that work is completed to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To read at home.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

6.2 The role of the class teacher

- To promote good routines for good home learning and home study.
- To set home learning according to the policy, giving full and comprehensive instructions.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- To mark and return all home learning tasks promptly where appropriate.
- To provide revision lists and support work for home study.
- To monitor the completion of home learning tasks.
- To contact home if there are concerns.
- To support the wellbeing of students around home learning.