



Devizes School

Home Learning Policy

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Rationale

The school believes that home learning is an essential part of all students' education. It gives opportunity to extend and consolidate work done in class; it encourages the production of creative, reflective and investigative work independent of the teacher; it also develops skills in personal organisation, a sense of responsibility and in forming invaluable habits for future learning and success.

Home learning is an essential part of preparation for examinations and it is vital that students dedicate time learning key information required for exam success. Home learning also provides a valuable opportunity for teachers to assess the progress of students and use this to inform future learning.

Responsibilities

The Responsibility of the School

Nature of tasks

Teachers will set appropriate tasks according to the school's Home Learning guidelines. The nature of the task will vary considerably and can range from completion of short activities (such as completing worksheets) to extended tasks. Where extended tasks are set over a number of weeks these should be broken down into a series of smaller steps for students to complete which should be communicated to students as appropriate via Show My Homework and Planners.

Tasks should be differentiated where necessary to enable all students to complete a worthwhile piece of work in the time allocated. If the task forms part of the assessment of students' progress then clear success criteria should be provided and formative feedback should be given to students.

All home learning tasks should be designed to ensure that students are able to consolidate their learning and make progress. In many cases, this will involve opportunities for them to be creative, include an element of choice and develop areas of interest to them. It should be recognised however, that tasks should be meaningful and relevant, enabling students to improve their learning.

Show My Homework and Student Planners

Teachers must ensure that details of the home learning are uploaded to Show My Homework with any resources that will support the task, ensure it is referred to in the lesson and written in the Student Planners, in full, together with the deadline. When home learning is submitted, all staff must record whether a student has handed in a particular piece of work.

Tutors will check and sign student planners weekly; they will send the standard letter home if a student persistently fails to get the planner signed by parents or fails to produce their planner. Tutors and subject teachers will respond to any comments by parents.

When home learning is not completed on time teachers will take appropriate action to ensure that students complete work. Staff will use the Show My Homework site to record completion of the home learning tasks and G4S to record detentions for non-completion of home learning. If a student fails to hand in work regularly then the teacher should contact parents and inform them of this concern. If concerns continue the student will then be placed in after school detention with a member of the Faculty Leadership Team.

The Responsibility of the Student

Completing home learning

All students are expected to fully complete home learning tasks to the best of their ability by the deadline set. If a task has not been completed, then students will be given 24 hours' grace to complete the home learning. If it is still not completed, they will be detained in order to complete the task. If students have difficulty completing the task, then they should discuss this with the teacher before the deadline.

Use of planners

Students are required to have their planners with them at all times. Planners should be placed on desks at the start of every lesson with the other equipment required for learning. Students are expected to accurately record the details of each home learning task in their planners and use this information, together with Show My Homework, to plan their home learning commitments to ensure all deadlines are met.

Absences from school

Students are expected, wherever possible, to complete home learning tasks set in their absence. On returning to school, students should find out, via Show My Homework, what tasks need to be completed and the due date. The use of Show My Homework means that students are easily able to find out what work was set and expectations are that this would be completed. If necessary students should discuss with their teacher a later date for the work to be completed.

The Responsibility of the Parent

We expect parents to take an interest in their child's home learning and encourage them to complete it to the best of their ability. The following guidelines are offered to support parents in establishing good routines for home learning.

- Encourage students to find a suitable comfortable and quiet place for completing home learning task, ideally an area that has a table. This area should be free of distraction such as TV, phones, music etc.
- Establishing a regular routine e.g. 4.30 - 6.00 pm every weekday is home learning time. This will be helpful in setting up good habits.
- Use the planner or email to communicate with teaching staff re any issues including home learning.
- Access the SMHWK or G4S app to check that home learning has been set and if completed by the deadline.
- The planner can also be used to check home learning set and deadlines
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Home Learning Expectations

These are guidelines showing average expectations and actual times will vary depending upon the nature of the task. Times shown are the expected amount of time students should spend completing home learning each week in each of the subject areas. There is no formal timetable for subjects to set home learning and to support students manage their time. Wherever possible, students will be given at least 48 hours to complete home learning tasks.

Years 7-9

Subject	Year 7 (minutes)	Year 8 (minutes)	Year 9 (minutes)
English	45	45	60
Maths	45	45	60
Science	45	45	60
History	30	30	45
Geography	30	30	45
D+T	30	30	
MFL	30	30	45
Art	30	30	
Drama ICT Music Ethics & Philosophy	1 piece of home learning each new term of 60 minutes duration <i>*This may vary slightly for the support group who have extra English and Maths</i>	1 piece of home learning each new term of 60 minutes duration	45 minutes for their 2 option choices: Drama, Music, Dance or DT,

In Years 7-9 the Physical Education and PSHEe departments does not set home learning but encourages a healthy and active lifestyle. This includes out of school learning opportunities and extra-curricular activities (e.g. after-school clubs).

Years 10-11

Students are expected on average to spend between 60-90 minutes per week in each subject area that they study in year 10 and 11. There will be times, particularly during periods of exams or controlled assessments when students may need to complete additional home learning to fully prepare.

Year 12 and 13

Students are expected to spend the same amount of time completing home learning as they spend in class for each subject they study. This is approximately 5 hours a week for a single award subject. In addition to completing home learning tasks, students will be expected to regularly review their class work following each lesson, in preparation for the next lesson. All students have independent learning lessons on their timetables, labelled I-Learn and are expected to use some of these to complete part of their allocated home learning tasks each week.