



Homework Policy

DHT Curriculum / T&L

Date of Adoption by Governing Body: T&L 10th February 2020

Chair of Governor's Signature: _____

Date to be Reviewed: February 2022

RATIONALE:

There must be a balance between the three key issues most often raised about homework:

- **Regular homework is important:** some studies suggest that if a student were to do an hour of homework for each school night then over the five years they spend at secondary school this would add up to the equivalent of an extra year at school.
- **A balance is essential:** other research has shown – and many parents feel - that too much homework can be harmful to a child’s overall well-being as it detracts from time spent on other worthwhile activities.
- **Quality is everything:** time spent doing homework is wasted if the tasks students are set are too easy or if they do not relate to their learning.

Consequently, to address these three issues, this policy focuses on three areas:

1. **FREQUENCY:** How often to set homework.
2. **DURATION:** How long each piece of homework should take to complete.
3. **QUALITY:** The types of tasks that are appropriate for homework.

FREQUENCY

There are no compulsory rules that tell schools how much homework they should set. However, the government has published recommendations which suggest that:

- Students in Years 7 and 8 should complete between 45 to 90 minutes of homework per day;
- Students in Year 9 should complete 1 to 2 hours per day;
- Students in Years 10 and 11 should complete: 1.5 to 2.5 hours per day.
- Students in Years 12 and 13 should spend 4 hours per subject per week.

The guidance points out that “the emphasis is on how homework helps your child to learn, rather than on whether it takes a certain amount of time.” It is, however, very clear that “your child shouldn’t be expected to spend much longer on homework than the guide times”. We would like to make sure students have a healthy work-life balance and so **our own guidelines are produced on the expectation that students will complete homework for just five days of the week.**

During Year 10 and 11, as a general rule, **students are expected to dedicate up to an hour a week to each of their GCSE subjects** – however Maths, English, and Science may direct students to spend up to ninety minutes on revision and homework if required. GCSE students are advised to develop the habit of working regularly on revision and preparation, otherwise they will find peak assessment times (generally November, January, and May-June) particularly stressful.

At Key Stage 3 the amount of homework set for each subject will depend on the time students spend in that subject. Students can expect more homework for subjects that they spend more time in. For Years 7 and 8, we would expect the following:

Timetable Allocation	Homework Allocation
1 to 3 lessons per fortnight	15-25 minutes of homework per subject per week
4 to 6 lessons per fortnight	30-50 minutes per subject per week per week

To help students to adjust to the extra demands of GCSE, in **Year 9** this will increase:

Timetable Allocation	Homework Allocation
1 to 3 lessons per fortnight (e.g. Music, RE)	20-30 minutes per subject per week
4 to 6 lessons per fortnight (e.g. English, Maths, Science, Languages)	40-60 minutes per subject per week

DURATION

- Students can sometimes spend too long on a homework task – we do not want to stop students from doing extra work but equally some conscientious students may spend hours on something intended to be only a short task. Depending on the task, extra work is not always beneficial.
- Students can sometimes spend too little time on a task. When a task is rushed it reduces the quality of the work.

Consequently, when setting homework, staff will tell students approximately how long they need to spend on the task set and this will be recorded in the planner. For example:

ENGLISH – Select and annotate an example of an effective persuasive text:

30 minutes. Due 11/12/17.

Students should ask for this if it has not been provided. Staff must also take care when setting deadlines:

- When setting a deadline for Year 7 and 8 students, staff must allow for 15 minutes of work per weeknight. So, for example, a thirty minute homework set on Monday could not be expected until Wednesday at the earliest. A thirty minute homework set on a Friday would need a deadline of Tuesday at the earliest;
- For Year 9 students, staff must allow 20 minutes per weeknight;
- For Year 10 and 11 students, staff must allow 25 minutes per weeknight.
- For Year 12 and 13 students, staff must allow 30 minutes per weeknight

Under this system, even if all subjects were to set the maximum homework with the shortest possible deadline, students would not exceed the amount of time spent per night according to the guidance set by The Joseph Rowntree School – or by the DfE.

QUALITY

The following key principles apply to all subjects:

- **Homework must involve activity related to learning.** Reminders to bring in equipment, basic find and gather tasks, etc., are not homework.
- **Homework will not always be written** but it should be apparent that homework has been completed; even if it is through a written comment from parents or carers in the planner.
- **Students have the right to homework in all subjects.** In practical subjects where written tasks are not appropriate, this might well take the form of a journal of time spent practicing core skills.
- **Variety** over the year is the key to setting effective homework, though it is accepted that some departments will have a propensity to set particular types of task but otherwise a balance is essential.
- **Homework should be challenging for all.**
- **All homework should be reviewed.** This could be through a starter task, through peer or self-marking, and whenever books are taken in, through a written tick and target from the teacher. Not all homework needs to be “marked” in the traditional way if it is checked in the lesson or used as a basis for a task that will be completed in class.
- Homework for Year 12 and 13 should be based around past exam questions, essay writing and redrafting, research, stretch and challenge opportunities and reading around the subject. Homework could include specific tasks and/or extension material to develop independent learning. Each department has a menu of additional activities that aim to encourage and develop independent learning in that subject. These activities are displayed on the sixth form area of the school website.

Monitoring:

- Missed or late homework will be monitored by SLT and Progress Leaders. Students who are repeatedly failing to complete homework or who hand it in late over a half term will be invited to compulsory homework support in the library. Staff at the sessions will help them with their organisation and support them with specific subjects if required.
- Concerns about homework in a particular subject, should be directed to the subject teacher in the first instance and then to the Head of Department if the issue is not resolved.
- Concerns about a child’s general workload, should be directed to their Form Tutor in the first instance and then to their House Progress Leader if the issue is not resolved.
- The library is open at lunch and break times – as well as for 50 minutes after school for students to complete any assignments set.
- The completion of homework is a key part of the home school agreement. School sanctions will be applied when homework is consistently late.

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