


Kirkburton Middle School

Homework and Independent Learning Policy



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Signed	
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Version	1



KIRKBURTON MIDDLE SCHOOL



Homework and Independent Learning Policy

Kirkburton Middle School is dedicated to raising the attainment of all pupils and recognises the significant contribution homework can make to the personal, social and academic success of each child.

Homework provides an opportunity for parent and child to share purposeful independent learning opportunities in the supportive atmosphere of the home. It can, therefore become a vehicle for developing and enhancing partnership and raising pupil attainment.

The benefits of 'Independent Learning' through homework:

For pupils, these may include:

- a sense of responsibility for their own learning;
- opportunities for additional learning time;
- improved self-confidence and motivation
- the formation of study skills.

and for parents these may include:

- sharing in their child's learning;
- showing an interest in their child's education;
- monitoring their child's progress.

The purposes of Independent Learning:

- to provide the pupil with practice in aspects of class work and to consolidate / reinforce learning;
- to prepare / research for future learning / lessons;
- to enable pupils to become independent and organised learners;
- to encourage pupils to manage their time;
- to foster a partnership between home and school;
- to provide parents with an opportunity to share in their child's learning;
- to enable parents to be involved and informed about the type of work being undertaken in class.

Types of Independent Learning:

- reinforcement of class work and basic skills;
- research topics and investigations;
- preparation for class work;
- reviewing, redrafting or summarising a piece of work;

- activities related to personal and social development;
- preparation for a presentation.

The frequency and duration of Independent Learning:

- Year 6 - a total of 30 minutes per homework
- Years 7 and 8 - a total of 40 - 60 minutes per homework

Professor John Hattie's meta-analysis of studies show homework which is built around meaningful, independent learning tasks which are given only when they enhance the learning in the classroom have the highest impact on learning. These principles underpin this Policy. The issuing of 'bolt-on' homework tasks for the sake of setting a homework is not effective

Maths, English and Science will be issued every week. Other subjects may be more variable. At times pupils will have fortnightly homeworks but pupils may be given lengthier 'project-style' work to complete. The latter will have a series of deadlines/checkpoints in order to ensure pupils are on track to complete the work set.

Marking and Feedback

All work completed by pupils will receive some form of formative feedback from the teacher within two weeks of its completion. This may be written or oral feedback to the pupil.

Who does what and when?

Subject Teacher:

- promote and support the Homework and Independent Learning Policy;
- set and explain the Homework task;
- promptly mark, within ten working days, homework tasks and give feedback to pupils;
- report any issues regarding the completion or quality of tasks to parents.
- Monitor the non-completion of homework

Form Tutors:

- monitor the completion of Homework through monitoring and signing the Pupil Planner
- support class teachers in promoting the Homework and Independent Learning Policy.

Pupils:

- recognise the important part Homework and Independent Learning play in their education and complete set tasks to the best of their ability. Presentation should always be of the highest possible quality;
- keep their parents informed about Homework;
- keep the Pupil Planner up to date

Parents / Carers:

- be aware of the Homework and Independent Learning Policy;
- encourage and support their child and provide an appropriate environment for learning;
- encourage their child to participate in supported study opportunities;
- sign the Pupil Planner;
- encourage their child to read every day.

Implementation, monitoring and review

This will be done through book reviews, lesson observations, Student Voice, Parent Voice and departmental reviews.

Non-completion and non-return of Homework

The responsibility for following up homework remains with the subject teacher. Each teacher will make their own arrangements for pupils who fail to complete or return Homework. If the work is not completed, parents / carers will be informed via Class Charts.

Subject Teachers will explore reasons for non-completion and take appropriate action. A more widespread problem will be investigated by the Form Tutor or Pupil Achievement Leader and appropriate support put in place.

At Kirkburton Middle School, if a child does not complete homework this will be recorded on Class Charts. For every three entries on Class Charts per half-term the pupil will receive an after-school detention.

The effects of Homework and Independent Learning on attainment

Research shows that:

- Whilst Homework and Independent Learning can improve the attainment of pupils to a point, it is only partly responsible for good academic performance - see research from Hattie above.
- Encouraging less able children to spend more time on Homework and Independent Learning will not improve their overall attainment or prevent them falling behind.
- The nature and quality of Homework and Independent Learning is as important as the amount of time spent completing it, if not more so
- Homework and Independent Learning which includes preparation or practice may be better than activities concerned only with curriculum content.
- Kirkburton Middle School takes this into account by providing a range and variety of tasks, developing skills as well as subject knowledge.

Independent Learning and Homework during holiday periods

At Kirkburton Middle School we appreciate that pupils need time to recover, relax and recuperate during holiday breaks. However, we will encourage pupils to:

- develop and extend their Project work;
- revise and consolidate prior learning through the use of MyMaths, Accelerated Reader, activities on FROG and BBC Bitesize.

As pupils near their SATs or end of year exams, staff might set specific revision tasks during holidays such as past questions to reinforce exam technique.

We encourage our pupils to read daily and to practice times tables. Pupils are also encouraged to research around topics or themes being covered in class.

This Policy was written in November 2014:

Date agreed by staff: 27th November 2014

Date agreed by Governors' Curriculum and Learning Committee: 19.11.14

Date adopted by Full Governing Body: planned for 27'01'15

Reviewed by Staff and Governors June 2016

Reviewed by Staff and Governors February 2018