



HOMEWORK POLICY

Policy Lead	Karen Key
Last review date	July 2022
Next review date	July 2023
Approval needed by	Headteacher

Rationale

Homework 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. Effective homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement, and develops pupils' study skills. It is an integral part of the curriculum and requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

Homework Objectives

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study and form positive study habits.
- To promote individual progress through the consolidation or extension of subject knowledge.
- To provide parents and carers with the chance to support their child's progress.

Responsibilities

The Role of the Pupil

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To attempt all work to their best effort and ability.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in on time.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties before the submission deadline.

The Role of the Class Teacher

- To set regular homework in line with the learning needs of the group.
- To set homework tasks that are meaningful and purposeful.
- To give full and comprehensive instructions.
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- To provide feedback on homework in line with Academy policy.
- To inform the Faculty Head, Form Tutor, and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The Role of Parents/Carers

The role of the parents and carers is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard, and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents and carers can assist by:

- Providing a suitable quiet place in which their child can do their homework, or by encouraging them to attend homework and study support clubs.
- Making it clear to their child that they value homework.
- Encouraging their child and praising them when they have completed homework.
- Expecting deadlines to be met and checking that they are.

Homework at Knutsford Academy: What does it look like?

The Academy no longer has a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. Students will need to learn to manage their time so that they do some homework each evening, Show My Homework (SMHW) clearly sets out when tasks are due to aid students with this. Each department will set meaningful homework when appropriate for that subject.

Homework Minimum Standards

- Homework will be uploaded onto SMHW by teachers by the end of the day on which the homework was set.
- Students will be given reasonable time (usually the following week) to complete the homework tasks according to the task type and difficulty of the task.
- Teachers will explicitly state on SMHW how long to spend on a task.
 - At KS3, this will be up to a maximum of 30 minutes per subject per week. For subjects where students only have one lesson a fortnight, this will be a maximum of 30 minutes a fortnight.
 - At KS4, this will be up to a maximum of 60 minutes per subject per week.
 - At KS5, it is recommend that in order to make a successful transition from GCSE to Advanced Level work, students should undertake a minimum of twenty-four hours study per week, outside of timetabled lessons. For example, if students are studying three subjects, they would be expected to complete a minimum of eight additional hours per week, per subject in their own time. This time will be a combination of homework, assigned independent study and individual independent study. Students are responsible for ensuring that they complete sufficient individual independent study to meet the requirements of the course.
- Maximum homework time might consist of several smaller tasks or one larger task, not to exceed the total time allocated. For example, at KS3 two 15 minute tasks may be set or one hour long task may be set over two weeks.

Types of homework tasks

Read it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading novels • Reading key extracts of texts/literature • Reading articles 	<p><i>'Language and literacy provide us with the building blocks not just for academic success, but for fulfilling careers and rewarding lives'.</i> (Education Endowment Foundation)</p> <p>Reading helps to improve vocabulary, communication, grammar and writing skills.</p>
Spell it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spelling and vocabulary tests • Exploration of the etymology of key words 	<p>Spelling tasks help students to be able to spell key words within their subjects correctly. The more practice that students have at spellings, the better chance they have at remembering them. Being able to spell words correctly is something that will help students all through their life.</p>
Apply it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended written responses to a question • Producing a piece of work which will demonstrate understanding of a topic or concept 	<p>These tasks might require students to demonstrate how well they have understood and learnt key things from their lessons. They might be extended written responses to a question which require students to apply their knowledge and understanding.</p>
Retrieve it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Organisers • Quizzes • Self-testing • Flashcards • Graphic Organisers • Learning grids 	<p>These are tasks which prompt students to recall/remember key information. The more we encourage students to retrieve information, the more chance we have of it 'sticking' and remaining in the long term memory for students to retrieve with ease.</p>

Practise it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice of skills • Rehearsal of lines • Practice of dance moves • Music practice for performance pieces • Use of subject specific platforms such as 'Maths Watch' 	Practice makes perfect! Repeatedly practising something eventually helps students to remember and to master something to an excellent standard.
Pod it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSEPod- An extensive study support platform which provides students with access to additional content including film clips, assessment materials linked to specific subjects and topics 	GCSEPod is an online resource which contains lots of mini film pods linked to most subjects and key topics. Teachers can use them to test their students, enhance revision and monitor their engagement. Students can self-test, build knowledge and monitor their progress.
Revise it:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-testing • Essay plans • Practice essays • Summarisation • Mind maps • Dual coding of notes 	Active revision is an important skill that students need to master. Active revision and practice of exam tasks can reduce stress and anxiety associated with exams while allowing our students to achieve their full potential.

Feedback

We strive to provide timely and purposeful feedback. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback, such as whole class feedback, verbal feedback, written feedback (WWW/EBI) and follow-up tasks. Quizzes, spelling tests and numeracy tests set on SMHW will provide pupils with immediate feedback. We may use more extensive, targeted marking on longer tasks which may require written feedback.

Rewards and sanctions

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be praised in class. Positive behaviour points or letters/postcards home should be awarded for good homework.

Students who fail to complete homework

All students are expected to complete homework on time and to a high standard. The completion of homework is compulsory. Failure to complete or hand in homework will be treated as a serious issue and sanctions will be imposed.

Students with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

At Knutsford Academy we recognise that students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may require that specific tasks be set that are consistent with a student's EHCP.

While students with SEND may benefit from differentiated tasks, it is important that they also do as much in common with other students as possible.

A balanced amount of the right type of homework will be set for students with SEND, in consultation with the parents and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.