



# Secondary Homework Strategy and Guidance

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## Rationale

At Endeavour Learning Trust we believe that learning is not restricted to the activities and experiences that students have at school and during lessons. Learning is a life-long process both inside and outside of school. We believe that homework provides invaluable opportunities for students to engage with their learning outside of the classroom environment.

Homework therefore consolidates and extends learning that has taken place within lessons and gives students the opportunity to work independently and prepare for future lessons, practise examination techniques or further develop appropriate skills and enhance knowledge. Our aim is for this to be structured, meaningful and coherent for all concerned. Homework should not generate additional workload for teachers unnecessarily and therefore individual homeworks will not necessarily be checked, tested or marked. Homework also gives parents the chance to support their child's progress and encourages dialogue about school experience.

## How often?

Meaningful homework will be set in order to reinforce learning and promote independence. This might be set weekly, fortnightly, depending on how to best enhance learning at that point in the curriculum. We have a flexible approach to homework inasmuch as we don't enforce a rigid timetable, so as to avoid the risk of homework just being set for the sake of it. Students will always engage more fully when they see there is a clear purpose. We believe in quality not quantity, so there won't be a discernible increase at Key Stage Four – instead the work will be more focused towards curriculum understanding and GCSE exam preparation. This is to allow time for more intense revision or preparation periods at various 'hotspots' in the GCSE courses.

## What might be set as homework?

We will offer variety in the types of homework set, in order to capture different approaches to learning but it will come within the remit of either **Reading, Recall or Revision**.

Reading homeworks are aimed at enhancing comprehension skills, developing a curiosity about the world around us and embedding research skills and critical thinking.

Recall homeworks are small chunks of learning that are used to increase the retention of knowledge and skills that can then be further developed within the classroom.

Revision homeworks are to prepare the students for assessments and develop strategies for independent learning.

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Examples of homework set include the following:

## Reading

- Reading a paragraph, article, extract, different types of text etc.
- Setting questions on this reading – making explicit with verbal or written responses required
- Research – with guidance of where to look and how to feedback

## Recall

- Knowledge Acquisition tasks – learning facts, spellings, formulae, quotes, definitions etc.
- Deliberate Practice of skills and techniques

## Revision

- Exam technique and preparation
- Creating revision materials
- Online tasks

Some homework will have the scope to be adapted to meet individual learning needs; this means not everyone in the class will necessarily receive the same task.

Some subjects may set enrichment activities that they want the students to be aware of but these are optional and will be labelled as Optional Enrichment.

## Where will it be recorded?

Homework set will be recorded on Classcharts. A deadline will also be set and an approximate completion time given. Students with a particular learning need will be given support by the teacher to ensure homework is recorded accurately and the task is understood.

## Expectations and Support

### Teachers are expected to:

- Set time aside during lessons for homework to be fully explained.
- Log all homework on Classcharts, explicitly stating either **Reading, Recall or Revision** with clear instructions and completion time (this should be the maximum time to spend on the homework task)
- Allow enough time for the homework to be completed to an acceptable standard i.e. not for the next working school day or extensive homework over holiday periods
- Set homework that is either **Reading, Recall or Revision only**
- Formal assessments are not to be set for homework
- Set homework that is achievable and doesn't need additional support from teachers or parents
- Ensure that they check the homework has been completed by questioning, peer or self-assessment or individual reflection on their progress
- Ensure that missing homework is logged and followed up appropriately
- Provide opportunity to prepare for or to consolidate learning
- Not set extensive pieces of written homework

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### **Students are expected to:**

- Listen to homework instructions in class and engage with Classcharts to ensure instructions are read thoroughly
- Complete homework to the best of their ability and ensure the deadline is met
- Inform the class teacher if they are having any difficulties with the work, well before the deadline date

### **Parents can contribute by:**

- Regularly monitoring their child's homework log on Classcharts
- Discussing homework tasks with their child in order to help and encourage them, particularly with the basics of reading, writing, spelling and numeracy (Please ensure that homework is the work of the student and avoid helping with homework to the extent that it is no longer a true reflection of the student's achievement)
- Further support could be given in the form of testing their child's knowledge and recall
- Checking their child's homework when it has been completed – insist on good standards of presentation in diagrams and written work
- Notifying the school of any issues or problems that may prevent the completion of homework before the deadline
- Encouraging their children to review their learning when there is no specific homework task set

### **Rewards and Sanctions**

If we are to truly see homework as an extension of the learning experience that occurs in school, then we have to measure the effort and application put in by students in the same way as we would in our classrooms. That means we will praise good effort and award achievement points to students who apply themselves successfully to the task set. We will also employ sanctions where appropriate for failure to produce what is expected. This will be in the form of an after school detention. If the situation escalates further, the sanction becomes more serious, and senior leaders become involved, just as it would with any misdemeanour in the school.