

The Archbishop's School

Home Learning Policy

2015

Home Learning Policy

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education." - 1999 White Paper, *Excellence in Schools*

Home learning is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement and is designed in order to enhance the learning and progress achieved by the student.

Home learning does not have to be completed at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school, for example in the Home Learning Centre or in specialist subject areas such as Art, Music or Design Technology.

The school vision is that home learning enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops their study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area. It should encourage a love and enjoyment for learning through a range of different and interesting activities.

Aims

Home learning enables pupils to:

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- extend their learning and understanding, particularly in areas of personal interest.
- access resources not available in the classroom.
- develop research skills.
- have an opportunity for independent work.
- show progress and understanding.
- provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- to enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- to take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- engage parental co-operation and support.
- create channels for home school dialogue.

Expectations: How much and by whom?

Key Stage 3:

Focus Area	Time per week
Maths	45 minutes per week
MFL	30-45 minutes per week
English Spelling Punctuation & Grammar	Up to 45 minutes per week
Curriculum Focus Week (this is set by departments on an organised schedule)	2 hours per week

Curriculum Area	Number of tasks per year
English	6
Science	6
Geography	4
History	4
Religious Studies	4
Art	3
Design Technology	3
ICT	2
Performing Arts (Music & Drama)	1

When a department has a Curriculum Focus Week they will set a variety of tasks for students to complete throughout the week. These may range between vital tasks and some that are optional called 'Sparkle' activities to enhance the enjoyment of learning for our students. In order to support the completion of tasks, each department will put resources onto the school's website. There will also be an after-school Home Learning Centre (three nights per week) in order to assist students who struggle to complete tasks at home or provide a quiet place with resources to ensure students complete the work to the best possible standard.

Key Stage 4:

Focus Area	Time per week
English	60 minutes per week
Maths	60 minutes per week
Science	60 minutes per week
Religious Studies	30 minutes per week
Option Subjects	45-60 minutes per week

Students will be able to attend after school Home Learning sessions in order to ensure that the school is supporting students who want to do their best when completing their set tasks.

Key Stage 5:

Each subject will set between 90-120 minutes per week. The school conservatory is open most evenings for students who would like to complete the work set/extra revision at school both during free periods and after school.

Responsibilities

The role of the pupil

1. To listen to home learning instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into their student planner.
3. To ensure that tasks are completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor

- To see that home learning is being set and recorded.
- To check that the planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in planners by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of home learning and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set tasks according to the timetable.
2. Provide the stimulus.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
5. Mark and return all homework promptly (within 7 days of collection).
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Subject/Faculty Leader, Tutor and Head of House, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of the Parents

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from home learning. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the student when home learning is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
5. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
6. Signing the student planner each week.
7. Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.