



Homework Policy

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Date approved by LGB	18/07/2024
Next review date	Summer 2027

Homework Policy

EEF research shows that homework done well, has a positive impact on progress. Homework enables pupils to reinforce, practice and apply the knowledge in the curriculum across all subjects. Homework allows parents to engage, encourage and participate towards their children's learning. Homework allows children to demonstrate their abilities and improve their sense of responsibility and time management.

Purpose and reasons for homework:

- To enhance and support the learning which takes place in the classroom
- To encourage pupils to develop a base of core knowledge that will support their learning throughout their time at school
- To encourage pupils to become independent learners and develop skills to be lifelong learners
- To encourage pupils to take responsibility for time management in relation to their learning
- To read more widely
- To develop revision skills
- To provide an opportunity for parents/carers to be involved with their child's learning.

This policy was originally drafted in consultation with the following stakeholders:

- Pupils via the school council, focus groups, and class discussions
- Parents via parent forums
- Heads of Department via formal meetings and informal discussions
- Feedback from class teachers
- Governors' approval of the KS3 homework strategy
- Senior Leadership Group discussions

Please see also the following policies:

- Assessment Policy

How is homework organised?

Our aim at Dereham Neatherd High School is to ensure all pupils are set homework that is pre-planned, with active tasks set according to the expected timings.

Key Stage 3

In Years 7, 8 and 9 the structure of homework is straightforward. Pupils are set homework tasks, that often use the core knowledge books, to revise and learn the knowledge required for each subject. Core Knowledge Books have a range of pages for every subject which summarise the essential knowledge that every pupil should have.

Subject teachers set the homework each week/fortnight and check the homework the following week/fortnight. English, Maths, Science and Languages set homework each week, all other subjects set homework every fortnight.

Pupils normally evidence their homework in their red homework exercise books, although some subjects use homework booklets and others use online platforms. Broadly speaking, completing homework should take 20 minutes per subject per week or fortnight, depending on the subject.

Each year group gets specific guidance on their homework structure, this is available on the school website and also given to pupils as a handout. From September 2024 the types of homework tasks each subject sets will also be on the school website.

To support pupils with homework, a page in the Core Knowledge Books is dedicated to effective homework strategies, Form Tutors will work with their pupils to model effective homework strategies and assemblies for pupils are given when homework focusses solely on revision for summative assessments.

Above and Beyond

For pupils who would like to do extra learning at home, optional Above and Beyond tasks are available on the school website for every subject in each year group. Pupils show their subject teacher the completed tasks, who can award 25 or 50 house points, depending on the task. These tasks are great if pupils have a particular interest in a specific topic/subject.

Key Stage 4

Homework in Key Stage 4 is aimed to support maximizing achievement in the examined courses. Homework is set each week for all examined subjects; it should last a maximum of 45 minutes. Suitable homework tasks for Key Stage 4 may include:

- Regular exam question practice, from the beginning of the course to the end.
- Extended reading tasks and note-making following in-class guidance on how to effectively make notes.
- Rote-learning of certain vocabulary terms, formulae, subject-specific content and spellings which contribute to examination and controlled assessment achievement.
- Research work both during and in advance of topics being studied.
- Revision tasks following lessons, and in advance of tests and examinations – these may take the format of book work or online work.
- Extended writing opportunities, following the criteria given out in class.

Homework expectations

Pupils are expected to do 45 minutes of homework per subject per week, which accounts for 90 minutes of homework per school day. Although pupils have flexibility of when they do homework as all homework set gives 7 days to complete, pupils will continue to develop time management skills in Key Stage 4.

Responsibilities of the Teacher

Principles:

- **Scheduled** – homework will be planned in advance, ideally this plan is shared with pupils. No *ad-hoc* “finish off this for next lesson” homework.
- **Consistency** – (If at all possible) homework will always be set on the same day of the week and always collected on the same day the week after.
- **Timely** – pupils should always have 7 days to complete the homework task.
- **Clarity** – teachers will always give a clear task and clear expectations for the quantity and quality.
- **Standardised** – tasks will be reinforcing content from the lessons, and the tasks should be the same across the department.
- **Feedback** – is likely to be whole class feedback in lessons, addressing common misconceptions or gaps in their knowledge.

Further KS4 Guidance

- Teachers should avoid setting homework at the end of the lesson – ideally it should be set near the beginning, or within the context of the lesson, allowing sufficient time for recording in the planner.
- Teachers should set tasks that provide a suitable challenge for all pupils and help them to progress.
- If homework is to be formally assessed, the marking criteria should be made explicit to pupils when setting the work and clearly used when marking.
- Teachers are not expected to formally assess *every* piece of homework, but pupils should receive feedback on homework every time.
- When homework is to be taken in to be marked, it should be returned to pupils promptly to maximise learning from feedback.
- Teachers should offer **support** to pupils who fail to complete/struggle with homework. This should be by the pupil attending lunchtime or after-school sessions/detentions to complete the work.
- The appropriate Head of Department should be kept informed if a pupil is repeatedly refusing to do homework and support has failed. The following consequences may then follow – initially administered by the **class teacher**, and only passing onto Head of Department if they fail:
 - Detentions for repeated failure to do homework.
 - Homework report within subject
 - Parents telephoned
 - Referring to Homework Club
 - Consequences should be used to encourage homework completion by all pupils so that those who regularly hand work in see that it is important.

KS3 & KS4 Homework Reward, Sanctions & Responsibilities

Rewards

Class teachers will reward homework with House Points if the homework has been done well, using the 'Homework' event in Bromcom.

Sanctions

If a pupil does not hand in homework, or it is not of the expected standard:

- 1st time – warning = support in class to encourage pupils to complete homework.
- 2nd time – pupils have a detention with their class teacher
- 3rd time – Head of Department involved for further support/intervention. (Homework report, call home, department detention, homework catch-up, Director told, etc.)

We always aim to support pupils to get their homework done, but there will be detentions and even an SLT detention, if homework is continuously not done.

Responsibilities of the pastoral team:

- Identify homework defaulters from Attitude to Learning data drops – if across subjects, support is offered to improve homework completion, including homework club or homework report.
- In tutor sessions, it is useful to discuss issues such as how tutees organise homework time, where they do their homework, how long they spend on it, how much effort they put into it and to discuss solutions when pupils have challenging circumstances.
- Support tutors in inspecting planners.

Responsibilities of the Pupil:

- Check the deadlines and plan ahead.
- Always write a summary of their homework in their planners, including completion date.
- Always have their planner with them.
- Complete homework to the best of their ability within the appropriate length of time.
- Submit homework on the correct date.

It is recommended that pupils get into the habit of doing homework on the night it is set as far as possible, with a designated homework slot.

Responsibilities of Parents/Carers:

- Check the outline of homework on the homework web page, and plan ahead.
- As far as possible provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which pupils can do their work.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how homework can help them make good progress at school.
- Encourage pupils by taking an interest in homework, and praise them when they have completed work to the best of their ability.
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.
- Encourage pupils to research and read for their subjects beyond homework set.

Responsibilities of the Head of Department:

- Ensure the planning and setting of homework is consistent across the department.
- Ensure homework resources, including core knowledge sheets, are accessible to all pupils, that they are engaging and educational, and that they are being resourced and set appropriately.
- Support colleagues in establishing a culture of homework being completed and consequences for homework defaulters.

- Monitor the setting of KS4 homework, its completion and the feedback.

Monitoring and evaluation by Assistant Headteacher

- Quality Assurance of the homework tasks set at both KS3 and KS4 to ensure all meet expectations. All subjects will share their homework tasks on the school website.
- Quality Assurance of the feedback of homework in lessons.
- Quality Assurance of the quality of homework through book trawls and pupil forums.