



Homework Policy

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Ratified by Governors: 14th November 2024 Next Review Due: November 2027

The rationale of this policy document is to:

- Enable students to understand how independent learning is a vital part of achieving success
- Give every pupil the opportunity to fulfil their potential
- Instil in all students the importance of life-long learning
- Provide training for students in planning & organising time
- Promote a responsibility for learning within each student

For homework to be effective it has to be stimulating and challenging whilst being supported through the quality of the teaching and learning occurring in a classroom.

Aims of Homework

There are various reasons for setting homework, examples of which are to:

- Encourage and develop self-discipline, study habits and a range of skills in planning and organising time
- Allow the opportunity for preparation, consolidation and revision, all of which support the learning that takes place in class
- Give students experience of working on their own, and to develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning
- Involve parents/carers as partners in their child's education
- Prepare for test/examinations
- Provide further challenge and to extend learning for all students
- Provide focused and sustained support for students who have gaps in knowledge

Principles Underlying Homework Policy

Students must take full responsibility for their homework and should be supported by their parents/carers.

Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities, and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable, taking account of home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations.

Homework should:

- Be carefully planned and an integral part of the development of knowledge in each subject
- Match the needs and abilities of students
- Promote opportunities for consolidation and extension

Types of Homework

Preparation homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a unit of study so that they arrive to the lessons with some prior knowledge on forthcoming topics. This could include:

- Background reading
- Producing a resource or making notes on the new subject matter
- Researching topics and being prepared to discuss findings in class
- Collecting items e.g. geometric shapes

Consolidation homework – providing students with the opportunity to cement the learning that has taken place during the lesson time. This could include:

- Writing e.g. a book review
- Making or designing something e.g. a work of art
- Answering exam style questions on the topic covered in class
- Using the information in lessons to prepare a presentation

Revision homework – providing students with the opportunity to prepare and become familiar and comfortable with the types of questions that they will be asked in tests and examinations. This could include:

- Producing a revision resource e.g. revision cards, mind maps, audio recordings
- Corrections to previous tests
- Comparison of their own work against a mark scheme

Our policy states that staff should be mindful that when setting homework that relies upon the use of technology that students should not be disadvantaged, and that adequate provision should be put in place to mitigate against this from happening.

Recent surveys show that 98% of our students have access to a device that has access to the internet at home and are able to use it to complete their homework. For those that do not have access to this facility, or those who wish to complete their homework at school, we run homework clubs in the ICT suites and LRC. These clubs are run by members of staff every day after school. Teachers will offer printouts of homework to those who require a paper copy of homework so as not to disadvantage any students. Students can photograph their work and upload it to Arbor or hand it directly to their teacher ahead of a deadline.

School Practice

Teachers

Class Teachers are expected to issue at least one piece of homework for every five lessons taught. Working on the principle, most subjects will set one piece of homework during each rotation of our two-week timetable in years 7 and 8. All subjects will set homework once a week in years 9,10 and 11.

Students should expect to be spending approximately the following amount of time on homework each day. This will not always be the case and will depend on how

each individual organises their time, so this is to provide a guideline of expectations for all stakeholders;

Year 7

45mins X 14KS3sub = 630mins / 14days = 45mins per night

Year 8

60mins X 14KS3sub = 840mins / 14days = 60mins per night

GCSE/BTEC Subjects – Years 9,10,11

60mins X 10sub = 600mins / 7days = 1hour 26 mins per night

Staff will ensure that instructions are stated clearly and that all homework is uploaded onto Arbor, an online homework recording facility, which will provide detailed information on all homework that is set.

INSET on the expectations of how we set homework on Arbor have been shared with staff to ensure a consistent approach across the school.

Staff will report whether homework has been completed or not using Arbor system. This will inform the student and parents/carers through notifications. Staff can choose to provide an assessment grade to a piece of homework, but this is an additional option for staff and is not a compulsory expectation. Additionally, teaching staff have the option to leave additional feedback through written comments. Again, this is not a compulsory requirement and is left at the discretion of each member of staff.

Heads of Department

Departments are expected to plan, prepare and implement realistic and manageable programmes of homework and maintain accurate records of completion and non-completion of homework. They are expected to support students in completing work and in closing knowledge gaps.

Tutors

Tutors will keep an overview of the academic progress of all students within their tutor group. This includes how each student engages with their homework. During KS3 and KS4 Progress Evenings, will discuss each student's progress and suggest intervention where necessary.

Arbor can be used to demonstrate how each student engages with homework. It will give a breakdown of homework completion as well as whether it has been handed in late or not submitted. This data can then be used by tutors when delivering in one-to-one Academic Mentoring sessions.

Academic and Pastoral Leaders

Academic and Pastoral Leaders are expected to use the information provided at the end of each data capture to inform tutors of which students need to be targeted for support and intervention. They will support the mentors in working together with

parents and carers to ensure that each student is given every opportunity to be successful at Oakmoor School.

Senior Leadership Team

SLT are expected to ensure that the whole school policy is embedded within departmental provision and to regularly monitor and review departmental provision including that Heads of Department effectively manage their teaching staff teams, ensuring that they monitor the engagement and completion of homework completed and that intervention is being used effectively to keep student progress on track.

Appendix A

The Role of Parents/Carers

The main support that parents and carers can provide is to Show your child that you believe education and homework are important.

Parents and carers can support successful completion of homework by;

- Setting a regular time every day for homework
- Ensuring that your child has paper, books, pens, pencil, ruler, eraser, sharpener, calculator, scissors, colouring pencils, glue, and any other subject specific items such as a compass or protractor which might be needed to complete assignments
- Setting a good example by reading and writing yourself
- Staying in touch with your child's teachers
- Using Arbor and having conversations with your child to keep up to date on what homework is being set and when it needs to be completed by, to ensure that it is handed in on time

Provide guidance:

- Help your child to get organised. Does your child need a calendar or assignment book or a bag for books and a folder for papers?
- Encourage your child to develop good study habits (e.g. scheduling enough time for big assignments; making up practice tests)
- Do you talk with your child about homework assignments? Do they understand them?
- Do you and your child talk about ensuring that they do not copy other people's work without directly crediting them for the work?
This is known as plagiarism and the consequences of doing this can be severe.

Talk with someone at school when problems come up:

- If a problem comes up, do you contact the teacher?
- Do you support the teacher and your Childs learning by helping your child to work out a plan and schedule to fix homework problems?

Appendix B

The Role of Students

- Students are responsible for completing homework to the best of their ability and handing it in on time.
- Students should be encouraged to plan their programmes of study, to ensure that their workload is as balanced as possible.
- Students should be encouraged to seek appropriate support to ensure that they are able to complete tasks set for homework.
- All students have access to 'Assignments' on Arbor.
- Students are aware that parents and carers have access to Arbor and have been asked to monitor and support encouraging them to complete all homework.

Appendix C

Failure to Complete Homework

Any system to ensure the completion of homework must ultimately involve working in partnership with parents/carers and the pupils involved.

The following system should be used to ensure a consistency of approach across all departments:

1. If a student fails to hand in homework and meet a deadline or fails to complete homework to the required standard, the class teacher will record that the student failed to complete the homework on Arbor and issue a detention, so that parents are kept informed. Where possible, the student will be asked to complete the missing work.

RATIFICATION DATE AND CHAIR'S SIGNATURE

Ratified/Signature:

Print Name:

Date: