



HOMEWORK POLICY

To be reviewed 3-yearly

ReviewedMarch 2017.....

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Homework Policy

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1. Rationale

This policy statement has been produced based on consultation with staff. It is designed to provide a coherent framework from which departments can develop a consistent and effective approach to homework taking into consideration students of all ages and levels of ability.

At Ferndown Upper School, we believe that homework is important in:

- Ensuring that curriculum content of subjects is covered in depth
- Reinforcing positive attitudes to learning
- Encouraging and developing self-organisation and self-discipline
- Reinforcing, broadening and extending the school curriculum
- Developing the home/school partnership
- Preparing students for life opportunities and experiences

2. The purposes of homework

There are many reasons for setting homework, the most important ones being to;

- Encourage and develop self-discipline and study habits
- Reinforce class work and consolidate learning
- Provide opportunities for teachers to assess students' progress and to maintain a dialogue with the student about their learning
- Give students experience of working on their own, and to develop in students a sense of responsibility for, and commitment to, their own learning
- Involve parents in the educational process and provide an insight into the work of the student

3. Principles underlying homework policy and practice

- Homework should be carefully planned and be an integral part of curriculum work
- Students should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set
- Homework should be issued to all year groups, in all subjects and to all students
- Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable

4. Types of Homework

Homework tasks should be set to reflect ongoing class work across the curriculum. The list below is not exhaustive.

Homework can take the form of:

- A specific self-contained project, exercise or task, based on previous class work
- Further examples of tasks undertaken in class and designed to reinforce what has been learned
- Completing work begun in class
- Reviewing, and, if appropriate, memorising what has been learned in class
- Follow-up work to assessment, ensuring that the student learns from errors
- An extended task or project, spanning several weeks
- Researching at home or in libraries using a variety of sources including ICT
- Revising and preparing for tests / examinations
- Homework menu

5a. Frequency and duration of homework tasks

Homework tasks will be set according to an agreed internal staff timetable according to the year group of the student and the nature of the subject. This is to create an even spread of homework on any given day, as far as possible.

Year 9

Where possible students in year 9 will be set one homework task per week in English, Languages, and maths. Science will set three pieces per fortnight, one for biology, chemistry and physics. There will be one homework task per fortnight in other subjects. Practical subjects such as PE, music, drama, design and technology, textiles, photography will set homework at least once a month or more if required.

The duration of each task should usually be 45 minutes in year 9.

Where a subject sets an extended task over several weeks (for example English), the expectation will be that the student will spend an average time per week as stated above. The department issuing the homework will be expected to give further guidance to students to enable them to break the tasks into smaller parts.

Years 10 & 11

Where possible students in year 10 will be set one homework task per week. Science will set three pieces per fortnight, one for biology, chemistry and physics. Options subjects will set one piece of homework a fortnight.

The duration of each task should usually be 1 hour in year 10 and 11.

Where a subject sets an extended task over several weeks (for example art), the expectation will be that the student will spend an average time per week as stated above. The department issuing the homework will be expected to give further guidance to students to enable them to break the tasks into smaller parts.

Years 12 & 13

As a minimum students will be set one task of approximately one hour each week by each of their teachers (normally two teacher per subject).

In addition to homework there is an expectation that students should spend at least the same amount of time per week as they do in lessons on reviewing notes, supplementary reading and revision – an additional 12 hours of independent study.

5b. Homework timetable

The school does not publish a prescriptive homework timetable to parents and students. Teachers are expected to adhere to the arrangements described above, and to set homework with a reasonable deadline for completion (it is **not usually** expected that students would have to hand in homework the next day, for example). Students are expected to develop their organisational skills by planning the completion of their homework tasks according to their homework listed on Go 4 Schools or recorded in their planner.

Homework tasks will be set according to an agreed internal staff timetable according to the year group of the student and the nature of the subject. This is to create an even spread of homework on any given day, as far as possible.

6. The setting and recording of homework activities

Teachers will set homework through Go 4 Schools. Teachers will upload the details of the homework including the nature of the task and instruction for its completion, the due date and other instructions. The teacher will inform the class that homework has been set. The teacher may also attach other resources that may be required such as supplementary worksheets, links to website or videos etc.

Best practice is to project the Go 4 Schools page whilst recording a homework task. Ask students to record the homework on their phone or in their planner at the same time. Parents and carers are able to log in to see the homework tasks through Go 4 Schools.

Students that do not have access to the internet at home can use computers around the school, particularly in the Library, which is open from 8am before school and until 4pm after school. There is a homework club that is run at lunchtime for students who find it difficult to organise their homework effectively. **Not being able to access Go 4 Schools is not an acceptable reason for non-completion of homework.**

7. Students failing to complete homework

Failure to complete homework is addressed through Go 4 Schools as well. If a student fails to meet a homework deadline, the teacher will issue a C3 on Go 4 Schools for 'Homework not handed in on time'. For extended writing pieces teachers may give students until the next day to hand in a piece of work – this is at their discretion. This will not happen in maths and science

where tasks are more statistical. The student is still expected to complete the homework. A student that regularly fails to meet homework deadlines needs to be set an hour detention for 'Repeated homework failure'.

If your child is unable to meet a homework deadline for reasons that you believe to be reasonable, please contact the teacher to let them know (before the deadline not on the day), as they will usually agree another deadline for the homework.

If a student chooses to complete their homework on the night before it is due and at that point cannot complete the homework, they will be given a detention. We are trying to encourage them to attempt homework before the deadline so if they have issues they can speak to staff to get support.

If a student rushes their homework or hands in something, which the teacher judges to have insufficient effort, the student will be set a C3 for 'Inadequate effort on homework'. Teachers may give students until the next day to improve this work – this is at their discretion. Absentees are still expected, in most circumstances, to complete homework as it is still available on Go 4 schools.

If a student is unwell or absent for another reason (sports fixture, school trip) when the homework is set, they are still expected to catch up the homework task once they are well or have returned to school. They can check if homework has been set by accessing Go 4 schools. If they need an extension to the deadline because they were unwell or away from school for a long time they need to speak to their teacher to arrange this.

8. Teachers' setting of homework

Teachers will set homework according to the guidelines set out above regarding frequency, duration and deadlines.

Teachers will post instructions for the homework, along with any supporting materials, links etc and inform students in the relevant lesson that homework has been set and remind students to check their Go 4 Schools page. Any printed material that is essential for the completion of the homework (for example worksheets, test papers etc) will be provided; it should not be necessary for students to print materials at home in order to complete a task. Worksheets and support sheets where possible may be posted on to the Go 4 Schools site.

Teachers will follow the steps laid out in the Behaviour Policy to deal with students that do not meet homework deadlines.

HOH Concern Letter to Students with Multiple C3s

Dear Parents / Guardians of..

Having looked through your son/daughters C3 list, it is a concern to see so many for repeated homework failure or homework not completed on time.

To help your son/daughter reduce the number of C3's for homework, get more organised, and get help with their homework, I would like to offer them the opportunity to spend time at lunch time/after school with me. The sessions will be Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at lunchtime for those who have real difficulties getting home and afterschool where they can then book a place on the minibus to get home. There could be many reasons why your child cannot complete their homework and we would like to foster a stronger partnership between school and home to reduce the after school detentions for homework which could be easily avoided by attending these sessions.

I will run a program where we can look at how they record their homework, their use, or lack of Go for Schools and how they organise when they do it. We will look at their in school and out of school commitments and produce a workable solution for the completion of this work. This is vital if they are to achieve their capabilities at GCSE. I will also give them the opportunity to complete any work they have been set that day, so that they have less to complete at home.

This is not a sanction, but an alternative place to go to when they have a C3 or when they feel they need help with homework. I hope your son/daughter takes this opportunity and sees the benefit that this could bring them now and in the future.

HOH