

HOMEWORK POLICY

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Ratified by	Policy Committee
Produced by	School
SLT Responsible	Assistant Headteacher
Signature of Chair	
Signature of Headteacher	

Rationale

At Fearnhill School, we encourage the individual development of every student and see homework as integral to this. Through regular, effective homework students will have the opportunity to become self-managers; reflecting on their learning in the classroom and consolidating their understanding. Homework also allows students to prepare effectively for participation in future learning as well as encouraging their own creativity.

Aims

The homework policy at Fearnhill School is designed to clarify our view of the purpose and value of homework, its importance in developing independent learners and its contribution towards realising our vision of 'The Fearnhill Student'. It explains key procedures, systems and responsibilities for teaching and support staff, students and parents/carers.

Homework Objectives

- To permit more rapid progress through consolidation and review of knowledge learnt in the lesson
- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline
- To encourage students to have self-awareness, self-confidence and initiative
- To enable students to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom
- To encourage students to investigate topics of study in depth, particularly through the use of effective follow-up questions
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom
- To encourage students to enjoy the skills, concepts and experiences related to each subject
- To encourage students to talk, discuss and research using the rich variety of resources which our community can provide

Definition of Homework

Homework refers to any learning task which a student is asked to do outside the classroom. It should be both suitably challenging and attainable. Examples may include:

- Quizzing or self-quizzing
- Learning key knowledge using knowledge organisers
- Consolidation of classwork
- Completion of past examination questions
- Coursework
- Practising skills
- Revision, mind mapping and summarising

Procedures

At key stage 3, compulsory online homework is set for Maths, English and Science via Sparx. All other homework is optional.

At key stage 4, students will be set homework that supports their GCSE studies.

Students will be given at least a week to complete and hand in their homework.

Guidelines for how much time should be spent on homework by students are: Key Stage 3 - 30 minutes per subject; Key Stage 4 - 45 minutes per subject; Key Stage 5 - 60 minutes per subject per lesson.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be recognised and rewarded in class. The reward system should be applied to acknowledge and encourage good effort and attainment with homework.

Expectations of Students

Students should recognise the value of homework and be aware of its capacity to improve learning. They are expected to be signed up to all the relevant subject Google Classrooms to access the work.

They will meet the expectations of staff that homework will be completed and returned on time and make use of the support available to them e.g. homework club.

They will be aware of the consequences if homework is not completed on time or to a suitable standard.

It is important that all students are set appropriate homework. Reasonable adjustments may be made, in both content and length, to ensure it is achievable.

If home circumstances make completing a piece of homework very difficult, then parents or students are encouraged to inform the class teacher. If a student is struggling with homework, they should see the teacher at least 24 hours before the deadline to seek advice.

Students Who Fail to Complete Homework

We believe in the value that homework can add to students' progress. It is expected that students complete all of their homework tasks, however, if they do not the school will follow the behaviour for learning policy.

Expectations of Staff

All homework, including homework for sixth form, will be recorded by teachers on the Google Classroom. Parents and carers will receive an invite to join their son's or daughter's Classroom. Teachers should remember to:

- Set the homework showing the date issued and the date due
- Attach any appropriate files to ensure students can readily access them

A quality and worthwhile piece of homework should be:

- Challenging
- Appropriate for the allocated time for each Key Stage
- Relevant to the current topic
- Engaging

Separate guidance for setting quality homework tasks has been made available to the staff.

Feedback

Students will benefit from positive reinforcement for their efforts. Feedback will enhance the learning outcomes of the homework. Feedback of homework takes many forms; it could be marked by the teacher, peer marked, have instant results such as via Sparx, be marked in the lessons as a whole class or tested via a quiz or assessment.

Commitment to Being Inclusive

Fearnhill School is committed to providing opportunities for students to study both before and after school whenever possible. Homework set by teachers may, as part of a rich and varied diet supporting a student's learning, include tasks that require them to use ICT for research or the completion of work. It may also be required that homework is sometimes submitted electronically. For students without internet access at home, homework club runs after school every day from 3-4pm where students have access to chrome books and sixth form helpers. The library is also available at break or lunchtime. For students with special educational needs, the Inclusion department will make available supervised time each week for students to complete homework with support if required.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring of the setting, completion and marking of homework is part of the school monitoring calendar. This will include periodic consultation with students and parents and a commitment to follow up promptly any issues raised. The monitoring will also involve checking on the quality and frequency of homework and independent learning opportunities.