

## HOMEWORK POLICY

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### 1. Introduction

Homework is an invaluable opportunity for students to continue their learning outside of the timetabled curriculum. When homework tasks are set and completed effectively, it becomes a crucial way of raising standards in achievement and attainment, encouraging young people to develop a positive attitude to learning that they will carry with them for the rest of their life.

All students at Airedale Academy will have access and entitlement to homework. Teachers are encouraged to set a variety of tasks in order to stimulate student interest, such as learning and revising, reading and research, finishing and writing up and extending class work and/or coursework and working with ICT. Teachers should ensure that work is suited to the needs and ability of the students. Appreciation of any learning difficulties or home problems which students may be experiencing are necessary. Once tasks are set it is important that teachers check that homework has been completed **as soon as possible after the hand in date. This will enable sanctions to be followed up where necessary within a week.**

The foundations of effective homework practices should be established from Day 1 in Year 7 and develop progressively across the Key Stages through to Year 13.

#### 1.1 The Purpose of Homework for Students:

- allows practice and consolidation of work done in class
- allows preparation for future class work and for examinations
- offers access to resources not available in the Academy
- to motivate and challenge students to use other learning resources, such as libraries and new technology
- provides opportunities to develop individualised work, independent learning and research skills in project work
- allows for the assessment of students' progress
- trains students in becoming independent learners and develops skills such as self and time management and in making use of their Student Planner
- encouraging students to be responsible for their own learning
- provides opportunities for parental co-operation and support.

#### 1.2 The Purpose of Homework for Staff:

- gives opportunity for staff to assess individual work
- informs future planning and teaching
- provides an opportunity to demonstrate student strengths and areas for development to feedback to the student and parent/carer

#### 1.3 The Purposes of Homework for Parents/Carers:

- gives an opportunity to engage with and support their child's learning within each different subject area and to review progress

## 2. Homework in Department Areas

Each Department Area has a policy relating to homework. The policy should detail when each class/year group should be set homework, for how long and different types of homework and how this fits within the assessment pattern of the subject. This will differ according to the subject area. Some Department Areas will set homework each week or fortnightly, whereas others may set more project based home learning, once every half term as an extended study. In any case, it is important that students are engaged regularly in homework within EACH subject area on a regular basis.

It is the responsibility of the Head of Department to ensure that homework is set and adheres to the following criteria.

- Homework should be integral to the scheme of work developing the scheme and enhancing its variety.
- Homework should be purposeful.
- It should be differentiated to allow all students access to appropriate areas of the curriculum ensuring that no child is left behind.
- Assistance and advice should be sought from SEN wherever appropriate.
- It should include tasks designed to encourage independence and self-motivation.
- Student access to resources should be considered in the design and allocation of homework tasks, in particular the use of ICT.
- Subject teachers should ensure that homework set is recorded in planners with a clear date for handing in
- Students should get regular feedback on the quality of homework and where possible this should form a part of the discussion with parents/carers about effort and progress within a subject
- Students should be encouraged to review work done to date as part of their homework and embed reflections as per the school marking policy
- Appreciation should be shown during examination periods; however homework should be set and recorded where revision is necessary. It is expected that students will be revising but this should be explicit and measurable to ensure this is completed and for consistency.
- Each Department Area should plan and offer curriculum homework support sessions where necessary or direct students to the homework club
- Each Department Area should reward students for good effort or achievement in homework, just as class learning is rewarded as per school policy
- Each Department Area should sanction students for non-completion of expected homework. An opportunity to hand in homework should be given once, and after discussion about why it has not been completed within a tight timescale – eg the next morning or lesson. If homework is still not completed, the following process should be followed.
  - a) A comment will be written in the planner for parents to encourage the student to complete the homework by the next lesson.
  - b) If the homework is still not completed, the subject teacher will issue a detention that they will hold and a phone call will be made to inform parents/carers. The homework will be completed in the detention. If the student arrives to the detention having completed the homework, they will not have to attend the detention. The detention will last as long as it takes to complete the homework or a maximum of 1 hour.
  - c) If the student does not attend this detention, the Head of Department will issue a homework detention manned by the department area. Another phone call will be made to inform parents. Again, the homework will be completed in this detention.
  - d) If the student fails to attend the department detention, the Head of Department will then issue a 40 minute whole school detention via BehaviourWatch.
  - e) If the student does not attend the whole school detention, usual sanctions will apply (60 minute WSD etc)
- Teachers should keep a record of missing homework so it can be shared with line managers and parents as well as Heads of Department.
- It is essential that we are rigorous and consistent in following up homework if we want students to become more effective independent learners therefore it is crucial that we address and act on those times when students don't meet deadlines

### 3. Roles and responsibility of students (please also refer to SEN guidelines for students):

- To write down tasks and deadlines in their planners
- To submit homework tasks on or before the deadline set to the best of their ability
- To catch up with homework tasks when absent, and if relevant, so learning and progress are not missed or compromised
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, students should see the member of staff concerned for help.

### 4. Role and responsibilities of Parent/Carer:

- Parents/carers are asked to support homework by taking an active interest in their child's work and provide a reasonable place where students can work, or encourage them to make use of the school facilities.
- Parents/carers should encourage students to meet deadlines and check planners for work set and deadlines in order to help this process
- If parents/carers feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the teacher / Head of Department / Progress Leaders who will investigate the situation

### 5. The Role of the Pastoral Team

It is essential that the amount, regularity and quality of homework can be monitored. The initial process and responsibility should lie in the Department Areas. However, the Progress Leaders will support Department Areas for persistent lack of completion of homework, including coursework.

### 6. Homework for SEND Students

The Homework Policy for the Academy allows Department Areas discretion in the provision of homework for all students. It is important to bear in mind the nature and timing of homework for SEND students. Students with SEND may have difficulties regarding homework. Teachers should ensure that work is differentiated for their level. ESAs can assist in ensuring that students make an accurate record of homework in their planner. Failure to complete differentiated homework should be referred to the SENCo as well as sanctioned. They will advise as to appropriate sanctions or support. Parents/carers will be contacted regarding support for homework which will include working in SEN for After School Activity Club, where help with homework is available.

### 7. Frequency of Homework

#### 7.1 Key Stage 3: Years 7 and 8

Subject	Frequency
Maths	1 piece a week
English	1 piece a week
Science	1 piece a week
History	1 piece every 2 weeks
Geography	1 piece every 2 weeks
MFL	1 piece every 2 weeks
Drama	1 piece every half term
Music	2 pieces every half term
Dance	1 piece every half term
Technology	1 piece every 2 weeks
Art	1 piece every 2 weeks
ICT	1 piece every 2 weeks

#### 7.2 Key Stage 4: Years 9, 10 and 11

Subject	Frequency
Maths	1 piece a week
English	1 piece a week
Science	1 piece a week
History	1 piece a week
Geography	1 piece a week

MFL	1 piece a week
Drama	1 piece a week
Music	1 piece a week
Dance	1 piece a week
Technology	1 piece a week
Art	1 piece a week
ICT & Computing	1 piece a week
Health and Social Care	1 piece a week
Business Studies	1 piece a week
PE	1 piece a week
Performing Arts	1 piece a week