



Homework Policy

September 2020

Signed:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'H. Carter', written in a cursive style.

Headteacher

Date of Policy	1 st September 2020
SLT Lead	Assistant Head Teaching and Learning
Date of next review	July 2021

SCHOOL ETHOS AND VALUES

Our Christian values are at the heart of the ethos of the school and through these we grow individually and as a community. The Story of the Good Samaritan underpins our 7 core values of:

- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Empathy
- Courage
- Resilience
- Kindness
- Respect

These core values underpin our policies, procedures and the way we treat one another in our community.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

During the period of time that schools are operating in a way that is different to pre-COVID-19 we will make certain adjustments to policies and procedures. Any adjustments will be made will have these key principles: -

- Reduce the risk posed to all members of the school community due to COVID-19
- Focus on staff and students well-being.
- Maintain a strong focus on consistently high teaching and learning inside and outside the classroom.
- Students are not disadvantaged by experience, opportunity or resource.
- Commitment to embedding the 7 core values of the school.

This policy has been reviewed and aligned to the whole school response to COVID-19.

INTRODUCTION

The latest research, conducted by the Education Endowment Foundation, shows that the impact of homework provides students with five months additional progress. However, beneath this average there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how and what homework is set is very important.

The evidence also suggests that how homework relates to learning during normal school time is important. In the most effective examples homework was an integral part of learning, rather than an add-on. To maximise impact, it is important that students are provided with high quality feedback on their work.

Studies indicate that there is an optimum amount of homework of between one and two hours per school day (slightly longer for older students), with effects diminishing as the time that students spend on homework increases.

Sexey's School Homework Policy now emphasises setting purposeful homework where quality is the main consideration rather than quantity.

Homework is set to:

- Encourage students to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and self-discipline needed to study effectively as independent and life-long learners.
- Consolidate, reinforce and extend what students know, understand and can do at school.
- Extend school learning: not all learning takes place at school.
- Involve parents and carers in students' learning and keep them informed about what students are doing at school.

COVID-19 Adjustments to homework

During 2020/21 all Homework will be set on ClassCharts. Where possible staff will set homework using IT platforms for example TEAMS, Hegarty Maths so that students can complete and submit this work electronically.

Where a student does not have IT access at home they are able to:-

- Attend homework club after school to access IT facilities.
- Request paper versions of the homework from their teacher.

Due to COVID-19 measures, student's books or homework sheets are to remain in a classroom and sit 'dormant' for 48 hours in a box before a teacher reviews them and again after the teacher reviews books they must sit 'dormant' in a box for 48 hours before being used by the student in class.

Teachers should wash hands and surfaces before and after handling student books/worksheets.

Where feedback on homework can be provided electronically to students, for example submission on ClassCharts and feedback through ClassCharts or TEAMS this mechanism is encouraged. Staff should however ensure there is a mechanism for recording and storing this and ensure this is printed out and stuck into students books or files so that students are able to access it for revision purposes.

Guidelines for Homework

Homework Duration

The amount of time spent on homework will vary across the academic year and will also increase in preparation for class tests, mock exams, end of year exams and GCSE and A Level examinations. Although the amount of homework undertaken may vary, it is expected that students will be set the following amount:

- KS3 - 30 min per homework task set. An average of 60 mins per week day.

- KS4 - 45 min per homework task set. An average of 90 – 120 mins per week day.
- KS5 - It is expected that students should be undertaking 1 hour's revision, research or preparation independently for each hour of taught time, so a student taking 3 A-levels for 5 hours per week would need to do at least 15 hours of independent study outside of lesson time.

Homework timetables will be published for year groups in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. The homework timetables will then be distributed to Teachers, Parents, Carers and Students in September in order to allow students to manage the homework that they are being set.

Teachers will:

- Only set homework when it is appropriate and purposeful.
- Be clear about the purpose of the homework task and how it will support student learning: pre-learning, checking for understanding, practice or processing.
- Provide appropriate and timely feedback according to the school's feedback and marking policy.
- Ensure homework is set according to the homework timetable and homework tasks are made available to students and parents and carers on Class Charts.
- Where appropriate, set homework activities that are differentiated, inclusive and varied.
- Provide appropriate rewards and incremental sanctions in line with the Rewards and Consequences policies.

Parents/ Carers are encouraged to:

- Assist their child with planning and organising their homework in line with their homework timetable and the tasks that are set on Class Charts.
- Provide their child, where possible, with a suitable learning environment in which to complete their homework, without distractions.
- Discuss homework tasks and teacher feedback with their child to encourage conversations about learning.

Students should:

- Use Class Charts to gain the details and support about their homework.
- Allow adequate time to complete their homework to standard that reflects their understanding and best efforts.
- Stick to the timing guidance from their teacher and if they exceed this to write down the amount of time it took.
- Where possible find a quiet environment to complete their homework.
- Take initiative for their own learning exploring and developing their understanding beyond the tasks set.

As well as the tasks set by class teachers, students are expected to undertake the following self-directed homework tasks:

Reading

In line with our whole-school approach to reading and in order to continuously improve literacy and vocabulary, students should read for at least 30 minutes each evening.

Revising and building memory capacity through Low Stakes Quizzes

Each day students will have 10 low stakes quiz questions at the start of each lesson. It is important that all students review their learning in preparation for the knowledge recall quizzes. This should be a review of the most recently studied topics and should take 10 to 15 minutes.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality of Homework provided and the impact of it will be quality assured through a range of methods including: -

- Student Progress.
- Student Voice led by Heads of Faculties.
- Head of Faculty Learning Walks.
- Head of Faculty Book Looks.
- Dedicated Drop ins with a focus on high quality homework.
- SLT Learning Walks.
- SLT Book Looks.

POLICY REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner in light of COVID-19.