



## **JUNIOR SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY**

### **Ethos**

Research shows that a strong triangular relationship between parents, school and pupils results in more effective learning. We see homework as an important part of the home school partnership that we value so highly. By working with parents to explain our ethos, make expectations clear and establish effective routines we can strengthen this relationship and help parents become actively involved in their sons' education. We also believe that homework helps children to develop the ability to organise their time and to work more independently.

### **Aims and objectives**

Through this policy the aim is to:

- foster positive attitudes towards independent learning;
- encourage pupils to develop good work habits for future life;
- provide appropriate homework to meet the needs of our pupils;
- provide homework which reinforces and enriches classroom work, or prepares pupils for future learning;
- ensure that homework is marked and pupils are given positive feedback;
- prepare pupils for their next stage of learning;
- promote the partnership between home and school;

### **The purpose of homework**

The purpose of homework is to support pupils in their aim to achieve the highest possible standards. The School believes that homework is one of the main ways in which pupils can develop independence in their learning. However parents also play an important role and are asked to show an interest and provide support. Homework should be completed within reasonable time parameters, according to year group. However, when pupils are set tasks that may take longer e.g. research homework the school accepts that some pupils will have a desire to spend longer on this to extend their learning. This is encouraged and celebrated.

### **Homework Content and structure**

Homework is set every night. There is an emphasis on Maths and English in all year groups. Boys in Year 3 and 4 are given topic homework once a week and this will involve research or other open ended tasks. Homework in the Humanities, and Science will also be set regularly in Years 5 and 6. All pupils have a short French homework once a week. At times older pupils may be given several evenings to complete lengthier projects. Homework expectations for each year group are communicated to parents through the Curriculum Handbook, a timetable in the Prep Diary and are explained in detail at the Curriculum and Social evenings at the beginning of each academic year. The timings below are approximate as some children will complete tasks more quickly than others.

### **Year 3 and 4 (approximately 30-40 minutes each day)**

- 20 minutes of written Maths or English homework
- reading on a daily basis
- sharing a book with an adult regularly
- learning weekly spellings and completing spelling tasks
- Topic homework- usually Humanities- once a week

### **Years 5 and 6 (approximately 45-60 minutes each day)**

- 30-40 minutes of written subject homework
- reading on a daily basis
- learning weekly spellings and completing spelling tasks
- Excellence and Enrichment activities in Humanities or Science. These could include research, model making or creating a presentation
- In the Summer Term when Y5 and Y6 undertake independent research projects, as part of our Excellence and Enrichment program, homework could include research, extended writing, model making; preparing a presentation, talk or speech; making a short film or puppet show.
- Year 6 can expect more homework in the core subjects and less in others in the Michaelmas Term in preparation for the 11+

### **Recording of Homework**

All pupils are all provided with a homework diary at the beginning of the year. Pupils are given homework instructions which they write down in their homework diaries each day. Parents are asked to sign the book at least once a week and comment on the homework, if they wish. Form Tutors are responsible for checking that pupils use the Prep Diary properly, write down their homework daily and that parents sign it regularly.

### **The home school partnership**

Expectations and responsibilities

Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities which pupils are asked to complete outside lessons, generally on their own, occasionally with their parents or carers. The School believes that homework makes the greatest contribution to learning when pupils and parents/carers are clear about expectations.

Teachers are expected to:

- set tasks appropriate to the needs and abilities of the pupils
- plan tasks which support or enrich classroom learning.
- provide sufficient information so that pupils and parents/carers know what is required and the timescale involved.
- monitor reading records and spelling homework as appropriate
- mark homework and give feedback as appropriate
- celebrate effort and achievement in homework tasks through the rewards system

Form Tutors are expected to:

- sign homework diaries on a weekly basis
- contact parents where any problems with homework arise

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Pupils are expected to:

- write down homework in their homework diaries every day
- hand in their homework diaries, regularly, as directed by their Form Tutor
- complete their homework to the best of their ability
- take pride in the work they complete
- hand their homework in on time

Parents are asked to:

- provide a suitable environment for pupils to work
- ensure that sufficient time is set aside to complete homework
- take an active interest in the work to support, the child's learning, whilst ensuring that in the main it is the child's work.
- support reading development by listening to their sons read, sharing and discussing books with them
- Help their sons with organisation to ensure work is completed and handed in on time
- sign homework diaries, as agreed with the Form Tutor
- sign reading records in Y3&4 as agreed with Form Tutors
- Write a brief note in the homework diary, or email the relevant teacher explaining why homework has not been completed, where this is occasionally unavoidable.
- feedback to teachers about any ongoing problems via email

### **Illness**

When pupils are ill, for a short time they may be asked to catch up on work missed, particularly in the core subjects. This is at the discretion of the teacher and will depend on the nature of the activity and the length of absence. If a child suffers from a lengthy or ongoing illness the school will work with parents to make arrangements to support the child's learning, as far as possible.

### **Problems with homework**

Where a pupil's homework is handed in late this should be recorded on ISAMS. If this happens more than once or twice the reason for this should be explored. If a child appears to be struggling with homework the teacher who set the homework, with the Form Tutor where it is considered more persistent, should try and establish the reason for this. In the first instance through a conversation with the pupil and then if the problem persists through discussion with the parents. Sometimes a small change such as cutting down on one or two commitments or establishing better routines for homework can make a measurable difference. Positive action should always be explored to try and improve the situation for the pupil.

If a pupil's homework is deemed unsatisfactory or he fails to complete it, without a good reason, he may be asked to complete the homework at a convenient break time or complete it at home, over subsequent evenings. Where it is felt that a poor attitude is the reason older pupils can be placed in detention to complete the homework. Where this happens more than once parents will be contacted and an action plan formulated.

### **Holiday Homework**

Holiday homework is set for Year 6 over the October half term and Christmas Holidays, in preparation for their 11+ examinations. Otherwise, homework is not routinely set over a holiday period. However, there may be occasions where pupils are required to complete an enrichment

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project or House activity over the course of a school holiday. Where this is the case, the project is generally open ended enough that pupils may choose how long to spend over it. Parents and carers are asked to encourage their children to read over holidays. All boys go to the Junior School library at the end of each half term to choose books to read over the holidays from the extensive selection available.

### **Provision at school**

Homework club is offered daily from 16.00 -17.00. at school. This is run by after school care staff, in Junior School classrooms. These sessions are for homework only and a quiet environment is maintained. Pupils are expected to complete their homework independently, although some help is given by the member of staff running homework club or boys from the Senior School who come to help. Where needed boys may borrow the Chromebooks to complete homework in Homework Club. Parents are still asked to ensure that homework has been completed and sign the homework diary accordingly, once their sons are at home. Parents of boys in Year 3 are also asked to read at home with their sons daily, even when they have attended homework club, and parents of all boys are asked to ensure their sons read daily.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Teachers monitor the quality of the work completed for homework, analyse parental and pupil feedback and may adjust the nature and timing of tasks set accordingly. The home school partnership is considered fundamental to the success of homework. Dialogue is encouraged and homework will be discussed at Parent Consultations. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment at other times to discuss their son's homework with the relevant member of staff. The Year 6 parents' exit survey provides feedback on homework for the SMT to analyse. As a result of a small number of responses on the 2018 Year 6 Parents' exit survey there will be a review of our homework policy during the year 2018-2019.

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