

JOHN FLAMSTEED COMMUNITY SCHOOL



HOMework POLICY

June 2016

1. **The Purposes of Homework**

- € To encourage independent learning through ownership and responsibility.
- € To allow practice, consolidation and extension of work done in lessons.
- € To allow assessment of student progress and understanding.
- € To encourage research skills, for example, in using libraries and other learning resources including ICT.
- € To provide opportunities for parental communication and involvement and dialogue.

2. **Amount of Homework**

We recognise that the amount of time spent by students doing homework will vary considerably from one individual to another.

It is not realistic to set prescribed limits as much depends on the age and progress of an individual class or student. However, as a broad guideline we expect the amount of time most students spend doing homework to increase gradually from Year 7 onwards as illustrated below:

Years 7, 8 & 9	recommended 1 hour per day
Years 10-11	a minimum of 2 hours per day

The amount of time a student in Year 10 or 11 spends may, on some occasions, go beyond this range depending upon GCSE coursework and revision for modular or terminal examinations.

Appendix 1 details subject specific requirements regarding the expected time a student should spend completing their homework activities.

3. **Student Organisers/Homework Diaries**

To promote independent learning and help students develop responsibility for managing their homework, organisers/diaries are issued at the start of each academic year.

Students use the organisers/diaries to record homework and these are checked systematically by tutors each week. Parents are asked to sign the organisers/diaries weekly.

Students are expected to replace lost or damaged organisers/diaries.

4. **Meeting Deadlines**

Students are expected to complete and hand in homework on the day requested by the teacher.

Parents have an important role to play in checking that deadlines have been met.

Teachers will consider sympathetically reasons given for not completing homework and suggest strategies for meeting deadlines. However, where a student repeatedly fails to hand in homework, a detention, either at lunchtime or after school, will be issued in the first instance by the subject teacher. After school detentions require 24 hours notice to parents. In addition a letter or phone call to a parent may be used.

Where homework is very untidy or does not reach a satisfactory standard for that student then the teacher may expect the homework to be repeated with possible sanctions outlined in the referral ladder (Appendix 2).

5. **Rewards and Target Setting**

The value of homework is recognised through the rewards system established at subject level; for example in the use of praise, positive reward and letters of achievement.

Homework is recognised by the teacher and student at the subject review and may be identified as an appropriate target for future development.

6. **Homework Tasks**

Whenever possible students should be given homework which is appropriate to their needs.

Homework should be linked to current study programmes and be seen as useful and relevant to the work being done in class.

Possible homework tasks could include:

Investigations	Research	Resourcing
Skills reinforcement	Revision	Learning vocabulary
Problem solving	Drawing	Preparation for...
Reading	Designing	Report writing
Posters	Drafting	Empathy exercises
Exam questions	Making models	Leaflets/pamphlets
Creative writing	Practical tasks	Practice
Coursework preparation	Projects	Surveys
Questionnaires	Visits	Analysis

7. **Feedback to Parents and Students**

When requested students and parents can expect prompt and appropriate feedback on homework. They can expect effective marking and a response to the quality of the work.

8. **The Role of Parents**

The school expects parents to support the homework policy in the following ways:

- Encourage and praise their children for the effort they have given to their homework in order to promote independent learning.
- Where possible, provide a peaceful and suitable environment in which students can do their homework.
- Monitor the amount of homework set and report any problems to the school.
- Check that homework has been completed and deadlines have been met.
- Check and sign the homework planner every week.
- Support for the teacher when sanctions are used.
- Encourage the use of ICT and other resources such as libraries and museums.
- Use homework as a prompt to talk to children about their work/topics and other school issues.

9. **The Role of Teachers**

Teachers set differentiated homework tasks, where appropriate, and mark homework regularly in accordance with published timetables.

Teachers take appropriate action, if necessary in consultation with parents and other staff, to ensure homework is completed (as detailed in Appendix 2 - Homework Referral Ladder).

Teachers maintain a list of homework tasks and a record for all students in order to monitor completion of homework and progress.

10. **Review of Homework Policy**

The School Homework Policy is reviewed on a regular basis by Senior Management.

The school homework audit, which involves teachers, parents and students, is used to inform future homework policy.

Appendix 1 – Expected homework activity time per subject area

Subject	Frequency	Time	Additional Information
Art and Design	Min 3 per half term Weekly	Years 7 & 8: 20-40 mins Year 9: 30-60 mins Year 10: 60 mins Year 11: 60-90 mins	Plus Controlled Assessment workshop time
Computing	Min 2 per half term Weekly	KS3: 30-45 mins KS4: 30-60 mins	
Design Technology	Fortnightly Weekly Weekly Sept – Feb Feb - May	Year 7: 20-30 mins Year 8: 30-40 mins Year 9: 45-60 mins Year 10: 45-60 mins Year 11: 60 mins Year 11: 60 mins	Controlled Assessment workshop time Exam practice questions
Drama	Min 3 per half term Weekly	KS3: 20-30 mins KS4: 45 mins	
English	Weekly	Years 7 & 8: 20-30 mins Year 9: 30-40 mins KS4: 45-60 mins	Written task and/or research plus weekly reading (recorded in planner)
Geography	Weekly	KS3: 30 mins KS4: 45-60 mins	
History	Weekly	KS3: 30 mins KS4: 60 mins	At GCSE, tasks will be written one week, learning the next.
Maths	Weekly	Year 7: 20-30 mins, Year 8: 30 mins Year 9: 30-45 mins Year 10: 45 mins Year 11: 45- 60 mins	My Maths/ Consolidation written tasks/ Revision
MFL	Weekly	Year 7: 20-30 mins Year 8: 25-35 mins Year 9: 30-45 mins Year 10: 60 mins Year 11: 1hr 15 mins	
Music	Min 3 per half term Weekly	Year 7: 20 mins Years 8 & 9: 30 mins KS4: 60 -90 mins	Including practice time
P.E. GCSE	Weekly Weekly Sept - Dec Weekly Jan - May	Y10: 40 – 1hr. Y11: 40 – 1hr. Y11: 1-2 hours	Occasionally up to 2 hours. Occasionally up to 2 hours. Revision topics, practice questions prior to test.
Science	Weekly	KS3: 30 mins KS4: 60 mins	
SMSC	Fortnightly	Year 7: 30-40 mins Year 8: 40-50 mins Year 9: 50-60 mins KS4: 60 mins	

Appendix 2 – Homework Referral Ladder

