

Homework Policy

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Rationale

This policy has been written to provide a coherent framework from which all subjects can develop a consistent and effective approach to homework taking into consideration the age and ability of students.

Nottingham Free School believes that homework is important in:

- Reinforcing, broadening and extending the school curriculum
- enabling students to understand that independent learning is vital to
- achieving success and highly desired by employers and further education
- instilling the importance of life-long learning
- encouraging organisational skills and self-discipline

The purpose of homework

Homework is set for a variety of reasons, which are:

- to encourage and develop self-discipline, planning and time management skills
- to encourage and develop independent study habits
- to give students a sense of responsibility for, and a commitment to their learning
- to allow reinforcing, extending and consolidating of work done in lessons
- to involve parents/carers as partners in education
- to develop revision skills and efficient preparation for assessments

Principles of setting homework

All homework should be:

- set in appropriate quantities and have clear, reasonable completion dates. No homework should be set overnight.
- set on Insight
- carefully planned and part of or complement the taught curriculum
- appropriately differentiated to match the needs and abilities of the students
- stimulating and challenging and offer opportunities to consolidate, broaden or extend the work covered in lessons
- accessible to all with all students given adequate preparation and support
- focused on revision tasks in, at least, the two weeks prior to assessments

Types of homework set

Homework can take the form of:

Practice exercises

These provides opportunities for students to apply, review, revise or consolidate new knowledge and skills including:

- Consolidation exercises e.g. maths exercises including learning times tables
- Practising for mastery e.g. learning spellings

- A variety of revision exercises
- Practising/learning words or phrases in a foreign language
- Extended writing/essay tasks

Preparation exercises

These provide opportunities for students to gain background information on a forthcoming topic and can be a useful tool for 'flipped learning' including:

- Background reading
- pre-reading a given text
- Researching a topic for a forthcoming unit

Extension exercises

These encourage students to learn individually and imaginatively including:

- Writing e.g. book review/diary entry
- Making or designing something
- Researching e.g. local news/history
- Finding information/retrieval skills using the internet

Frequency of homework

Years 7 & 8

Each piece of homework should take approximately 20 -30 minutes. Subjects with four or more lessons per week should set one piece per week and all other subjects set one piece per fortnight.

Year 9

Each piece of homework should take approximately 30 - 45 minutes. All subjects should set the equivalent of one piece per week.

Years 10 and 11

Each piece of homework should take approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour. All subjects should set the equivalent of one piece per week.

Study support

Students have two study support sessions per week which are designed for the supervised completion of homework. The following rules apply to study support sessions:

- The first 5 minutes must be spent on planning the order of tasks to be completed using the planning sheets in the student planner
- work quietly at all times

- Sit in your seating plan
- iPads can be used from 4.15pm when you have the teacher's permission
- Use headphones if you need to listen to something on your iPad
- Only complete group work if you have arranged this with your group before the study session and it is fully supervised
- All iPad use must be directly related to a piece of homework
- Collect all equipment and worksheets you need before the session

Role of students

Students are responsible for:

- Completing all homework tasks to the best of their ability and on time
- Liaising with the relevant teacher before the set deadline if any problems occur with the homework
- Recording their homework in their planner
- Checking all homework set on Insight
- Using their homework folders
- Managing their own personal workload
- Seeking support from their teacher, tutor or other relevant member of staff if needed

Role of staff

Class teachers will:

- Plan and set appropriate homework in accordance with this policy
- Set all pieces of homework on the Insight system
- Plan appropriate deadlines which span a study support sessions and are never overnight
- Ensure all students record homework in their planners
- Regularly monitor and assess all set pieces of homework
- Use appropriate rewards and sanctions for the completion/non-completion of homework
- Contact home with particular situations deserving praise or concerns/sanctions
- Provide a homework score as part of the reporting process

Lead department staff will:

- Monitor the homework provision in their department on a regular basis
- Monitor the homework completion and quality on a regular basis

Tutors will:

- Monitor the recording and completion of homework through the students planners and use appropriate rewards and sanctions
- Contact home with particular situations deserving praise or concerns/sanctions

The lead pastoral team will:

- Monitor the completion of homework through PARs and issue relevant rewards/sanctions
- Discuss particular issues with subject staff and parents

The SEND support staff will:

- Provide support and advice to subject staff on any aspect of homework provision including appropriate differentiation
- Provide appropriate support to parents/carers and students upon request
- Participate in study support sessions

The Senior Leadership team will:

- Provide support for departments
- Monitor the setting and completion of homework tasks
- Inform parents of the whole school policy through the website and information leaflets

Role of parents

Parents play a key role in ensuring that homework will be completed to the best of their child's ability.

Parents are encouraged to provide practical support for homework by:

- Providing an appropriate place to complete homework tasks
- Monitoring the time spent on homework tasks and informing their child's tutor of any concerns
- Checking the homework set on Insight
- Checking and signing the student planner where homework tasks are recorded
- Providing a routine for homework tasks to be completed during the week

Rewards/Sanctions

Rewards

Should be given for homework, in accordance to the whole school rewards system, when appropriate.

Sanctions

The following sanctions apply over a six week period/approx. each half term

- First piece of missing homework = break detention (unless good reason given prior to the lesson)
- Second piece of missing homework = subject break detention and contact home
- Third piece of missing homework = subject lunch detention and contact home
- Fourth piece of missing homework = Friday detention and contact home
- Fifth piece of missing homework = Saturday detention

Contact home can be via a note in the planner, an email or a phone call.

Poor quality homework should be repeated

Individuals who continually fail to complete homework over longer periods of time will have further support /sanctions including:

- Higher levels of supervision during study support
- Extra study time after school on a Friday until all homework is completed

Policy reviewed: April 2017 by E Howard

Appendix

Year 7 Homework Timetable

Students should expect to spend between twenty and thirty minutes on each piece of homework and will have pieces to complete every night. Our supervised study support sessions are used to complete homework and enable students learn how to prioritise tasks and organise their time on homework. In order to help organise their time students can use the relevant homework timetable below, as they will still have tasks to complete outside of the study support sessions.

English, Maths, Science and Spanish set homework each week. All other subjects set homework on a fortnightly rota (week 1 and week 2). All homework will be logged on INSIGHT.

Please note that:

- Spanish homework often includes learning vocabulary – this is best done for a short amount once a day rather than all on one night.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
7A	Every week	English	Science	Maths	Spanish	
	Week 1	CS		DE	History	Art
	Week 2	Phil and Eths		Music	Geography	Drama
7B	Every week	English	Science	Maths	Spanish	
	Week 1	CS	History	DE	Art	
	Week 2			Music	Geography	Drama
7C	Every week	English	Science	Maths	Spanish	
	Week 1		CS	Art	History	DE
	Week 2			Phil and Eths	Music	Geography
7D	Every week	English	Science	Maths	Spanish	
	Week 1		CS		History	Art
	Week 2	Phil and Eths			DE	
Geography				Music	Drama	

Year 8 Homework Timetable

Students should expect to spend between twenty and thirty minutes on each piece of homework and will have pieces to complete every night. Our supervised study support sessions are used to complete homework and enable students learn how to prioritise tasks and organise their time on homework. In order to help organise their time students can use the relevant [homework timetable](#) below, as they will still have tasks to complete outside of the study support sessions.

English, Maths, Science and Spanish set homework each week. All other subjects set homework on a fortnightly rota (week 1 and week 2). All homework will be logged on INSIGHT.

Please note that:

- Spanish homework often includes learning vocabulary – this is best done for a short amount once a day rather than all on one night.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8A	Every week	English	Maths		Science	
			Spanish			
	Week 1			History	DE	Art
	Week 2	Phil and Eths	Geography	Drama	Music	
8B	Every week	English	Maths		Science	Spanish
			History		DE	
	Week 1		CS		Art	
	Week 2	Geography			Music	Phil and Eths
						Drama
8C	Every week	English	Maths	Spanish	Science	
			History	DE	Art	
	Week 1		CS			
	Week 2		Geography		Music	
					Phil and Eths	
					Drama	
8D	Every week	English	Maths		Science	
			Spanish			
	Week 1	CS	History	Art		DE
	Week 2		Geography	Phil and Eths	Music	
					Drama	

Year 9 Homework Timetable

Students should expect to spend between thirty to forty-five minutes on each piece of homework and will have pieces to complete every night. Our supervised study support sessions are used to complete homework and enable students learn how to prioritise tasks and organise their time on homework. In order to help organise their time students can use the relevant [homework timetable](#) below, as they will still have tasks to complete outside of the study support sessions.

All subjects set a piece of homework every week. Please be aware that there may be times when additional homework is set outside of the homework timetable. All homework will be logged on INSIGHT.

Please note that:

- Spanish homework often includes learning vocabulary – this is best done for a short amount once a day rather than all on one night.

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Year 9	Core	Maths	Physics (9a1)	Physics (9a2/9b2)	Chemistry (9a2/9b1)	English
		Biology (9a1/9a2)		Biology (9b1)	Biology (9b2)	Physics (9b1)
						Chemistry (9a1/9b2)
	Options	Option A	Option D	Humanities	Option C	Option B
		Comp Sci	IT	Geography (9AG/9BG)	Product Design	Art
		Food	Music	History (9AH/9BH)	PE (PCO)	Drama (9B)
		Drama (9A)	PE (KSI)		Spanish (PBA)	Phil and Ethics (FC)
		History (9A)	Geog (9D/G1)		Spanish (LTE)	Spanish (LTE)
				Phil and Eths (FC)		
	Phil and Ethics SC	9A1		9A2/9B2		9B1