

Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School 	Policy No:C12	Revision No:	2
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Homework Policy		Committee:	Curriculum
		Author:	AMA/ SLT
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Key principles

1. At DHFS our heads of faculty, in partnership with their SLT links, are responsible for ensuring that their students achieve in line with their aspirational targets. Homework is a learning tool which heads of faculty will use strategically to maximise achievement
2. Heads of faculty and their senior links are accountable to the Headteacher regarding the achievement of their students. Strategic use of homework will be reviewed as part of this accountability
3. School leadership empowers staff to use their professional judgement in setting inspiring, effective, thoughtful homework and offers appropriate support where this standard is not met
4. The school recognises that different subjects and different teachers will use homework in different ways in order to move their students forward
5. The school has found that homework timetables are rarely effective and only seek to promote ineffective practice. For example, a timetable can result in teachers setting homework for reasons of process rather than learning and this can lead to homework which is tokenistic and unconnected with the 'learning journey'. We strongly encourage teachers to work with students to equalise their workload as students have told us through surveys that (even when we had a timetable) work is not always allocated equally across the week. This can best be accomplished through teachers negotiated with trusted member of classes around tasks and deadlines.
6. Some heads of faculty may decide that learning is best supported through the investment of teachers' and students' time outside of lessons in activities other than written homework. Such activities may include sports fixtures/ training, rehearsals, performances, after school clubs etc.
7. The completion of academic school work is not the only home based learning which should be viewed as 'homework'. The school recognises that a child's involvement in scouts, ballet lessons, rugby or football club, to name a few, are all very important to a child's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development and should be viewed as forming a portion of the guide homework times set out in appendix 1.
8. In line with the school's strategy around personalisation, students who are underachieving (particularly those who are disadvantaged) should be given extra homework and their work should be marked first to ensure the highest quality of feedback. This extra work should be accompanied by appropriate support, guidance and time and may include a student's involvement in homework club.
9. Unless stated otherwise, a piece of homework is compulsory and its completion on time is expected.

Preparing our students for the world of work: responsibility, resilience and reflection

We want to prepare our students for a future career in a competitive environment. We aim to develop the 3Rs: responsibility, resilience and reflection in order to achieve this end. We expect our students to be able to manage a significant workload effectively. Particularly in years 10-13 we view it as the responsibility of the student, supported by families and teachers, to plan their work so that all tasks are completed on time. Where it is clear that a workload is unmanageable for a prolonged time, we will readjust homework levels for that individual/ class/ year group.

Although we will try and provide a steady flow of work it will be the case from time to time that the workload increases and decreases (see point 5 above).

Marking

1. Teachers undertake to mark homework appropriately and promptly using the school AfL Policy on marking written work. It is acknowledged by the school that some staff members teach over 550 students per week and in these cases marking may be streamlined and may take longer to process
2. DIRT techniques are encouraged. Books should ideally show less red (teacher feedback) than green (student response). Lesson time can and should be used to allow students to respond to teacher feedback on homework.
3. High standards of literacy/ numeracy must be encouraged. All teachers have a shared responsibility to correct students' spelling and grammatical mistakes when they see them in line with school marking policy

VLE

Use of the VLE is highly encouraged. Its use can;

1. Allow students to help each other through blogs/ wikis
2. Allow students to access learning resources/ homework tasks remotely and independently
3. Provide an effective platform for teachers to reduce bureaucracy and marking time by marking and/or testing online

Proviso to above: Teachers should remember that not all students have internet access at home. Furthermore, where families have more than one child, computer access may be limited.

Quality Assurance- how will we know that appropriate levels of meaningful homework are being set and completed?

1. Appraisers review books and homework as a key part of drop-ins, lesson evaluations, work scrutiny, planning scrutiny and student voice scrutiny
2. Progress leaders will sample, as part of their review systems, the homework 'diet' of the students in their care. They will make recommendations to HoFs where adjustments to homework loading, style or standards might be made
3. Mentors will monitor the setting of homework through scrutiny of planners
4. Sixth form leadership team will monitor the quality of sixth formers' work, folders, teacher feedback and student response
5. Parent and student views will be solicited, evaluated and acted upon where appropriate

Roles and responsibilities

Heads of Faculty and Post Holders

As outlined above heads of faculty and post holders are responsible for the strategic use of homework as a tool to increase achievement and learning. This means that they are responsible for all aspects of homework policy and practice in their areas.

Students

Students are responsible for recording homework, planning its completion and submitting work that they are proud of, on time. Students are also expected to ask for help or clarification where required IN GOOD TIME so that they have time to complete the task. Students must make special efforts to plan to overcome potential technical difficulties (such as printers not working) in order to make deadlines.

SLT

SLT is responsible for the creation, oversight and overall effectiveness of homework policy. SLT links are responsible for supporting heads of faculty in the strategic use of homework to increase achievement.

