

Homework

Education is a partnership of pupil, teacher and parent. Homework provides a clear opportunity for the parent to provide critical support to their child's learning. A sample survey of parents carried out by the Head Teacher showed 100% support for homework amongst the sample of parents, yet homework is not a simple educational issue.

An effective homework policy requires considerable commitment by pupils, staff and parents.

Why is homework given?

- To follow up work done in class, for example by doing further reading or by learning what has been taught in class.
- To reinforce what has already been taught by giving further practice.
- To give pupils experience of working on their own.
- To give pupils who have a special aptitude an opportunity to push their talents on, or to enable pupils who are having certain Learning Difficulties to overcome the difficulties.
- To develop in pupils a sense of responsibility for their own learning, so that in appropriate cases, the transition from school pupils to student can be successfully made.
- To allow pupils to follow up their special interests. In the first and second years, the main purpose is to encourage a habit of study. In later years, independent study skills are even more important.

What form does homework take?

- Homework takes many forms. The most obvious is the structured written home exercise. Often, however, it will take another, perhaps less obvious form.
- Pupils may be asked to finish off a piece of work introduced and begun in class. Sometimes pupils may be asked to do some reading. Sometimes, even to watch a particular television programme (not that we wish to disrupt family viewing!). Sometimes to find out a piece of information, and sometimes to read over and review what has been recently taught.
- In this way, there is always some homework that can be usefully done.
- It is not good practice to issue new work which the pupil may require support to complete. To do so is to risk unnecessarily a sense of failure or frustration, instead of challenge and achievement.

How much homework is given?

It is not possible - or desirable - to prescribe limits. Much will depend on the progress of the class and the individual. Do not expect homework to be issued on every occasion in every subject.

Roughly speaking, the amount of homework in First and Second year will not exceed one hour per evening. In Third and Fourth, the amount of homework will increase. In Fifth and Sixth year, especially for those on Higher Grade courses, the amount will be quite significant.

Are pupils taught how to study on their own?

From S1 onwards, pupils are given help and advice on how to study. The Personal and Social Education Programme (PSE) includes advice on using the homework diary / planner, planning study time, and in developing Learning and Thinking skills. Pupils from S4 onwards participate in Study Skills seminars at different points in the year to support them as they prepare for National Qualifications.

How can parents help?

Parental support is extremely important.

- Every pupil is given a homework diary planner at the start of each session. This should be brought to and from school each day throughout the session.
- Please look at it regularly and sign it once a week. Various staff from class tutors to the Head Teacher will carry out spot checks to see that diaries are being used effectively.
- Ask regularly about homework. Do not be put off by claims that your child never gets any!
- Provide an appropriate place in your home, quiet, free from distractions, for your child to complete work. Remember that background music can help concentration.
- Express an interest in what is being done. You may find that the curriculum is not as it was in your own school days - again, don't be put off.

What if I am worried about the amount of homework or if it is being well done?

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, contact the Principal Teacher, Guidance in the first instance. If there are problems with non-completion of homework in any department, you will be notified directly by a standard letter from the Principal Teacher.

What if your daughter or son finds a piece of homework too difficult?

Write a note to the Class Teacher, or to the Principal Teacher, Guidance. Or even make a note in the jotter beside the homework to say how long was spent on the work, or whether you have given assistance.

Does the Pupil Report contain any reference to homework?

Each department has a homework policy which is in line with the school policy and each report will contain a reference to homework completion.

If you have any enquiries or suggestions to make about the Hyndland approach to homework, please do not hesitate to contact us:

Telephone: 0141 582 0130