



**Ormiston
Sheffield**
Community Academy

Homework Policy

Policy reviewed: November 2019

Next review: November 2020

Author: M. Garcia



Research shows that:

- Homework raises attainment
- Students who do moderate amounts of homework tend to do better than those who do very little
- Students with a positive attitude to homework tend to succeed,
- Parents want their children to be given homework,

Through homework students should be able to:

1. Consolidate their learning through opportunities for interleaving
2. Improve their literacy, numeracy and language skills
3. Develop intellectual curiosity for independent learning
4. Develop their skills in remembering, recalling, reviewing and revising
5. Develop their reading passion and skills
6. Check and extend their understanding of classwork
7. Extend coverage of the curriculum and prepare for future lessons
8. Make use of external resources which may not be available in the classroom
9. Involve parents in their education, forging home/school links

Key Points

Homework should be planned with the same rigour as classwork as an integral part of the curriculum and thus be part of the schemes of work. There should also be regular feedback to students on how well they have done.

The teacher should have specific aims or objectives in mind when setting homework, give sufficient time for the work to be done, set work that stretches and challenges all students, be able to accommodate individual students who may enjoy or need extra work and assess the work. Open ended homeworks are particularly useful, in that they allow students a differentiated outcome opportunity.

The teacher can set homework to serve a wide range of purposes, to work independently, to use research skills, to develop longer or in depth pieces of work, for revision and learning.

Departments should show variety and imagination in the types of homework set, ensuring that knowledge stretching "academic" homeworks have a central role for all students.

Homework can be in a variety of forms. It can be one of a number of activities. For example:

Investigations
Research
Reading
Drawing
Interviews

Simple experiments
Planning
Revision
Desktop publishing
Essay writing

Report writing
Making a model
Public library visit
Designing
Projects

Reading Homework

All students in Year 7, 8 and 9 have the opportunity to have a series of homework set around reading. The purpose is to engage students with reading around the subjects and widening their understanding of the bigger picture around the subjects they study. Students will have the opportunity to engage with reading activities around the subjects they are studying and the activities will vary dependent on the subject and topics they are covering.

The Amount of Homework Appropriate for Students of Different Ages

The intrinsic value of homework activities is far more important than the amount of time devoted to them. Good practice suggests that the amount of time which should be spent by students, on average, on homework or coursework, should fall within the following ranges:

Years 7 and 8	45-60 minutes per day
Year 9	60-90 minutes per day
Years 10 and 11	90-120 minutes per day

In Years 12 and 13 the amount of time spent on work outside lessons will depend on their individual programmes. They can be expected to spend more time than a year 11 student on work outside the classroom.

Setting Homework

Homework may be set at any appropriate time during a lesson, and the nature and purpose of the homework explained if possible.

Homework will be explained clearly by the teacher, who will write it on the board.

A clear deadline will be given and an idea of how long the homework should take and what quantity is expected.

Students should have the opportunity to have any questions about it answered.

It will occasionally be necessary to allow students 10 minutes at the end of a lesson to start the homework in order to ensure that they know how to carry out the work.

Students will ensure that homework is written down in the **Student Planner**.

Teachers will assist in this process and implement frequent checks.

The Planner will be headed up each week with the subjects to be set on each night.

The Planner will serve as a means of communication with parents, conveying to them what was set each day. It will allow space for both parents/carers and tutors to communicate.

The Role of the Student

The Student will:

- Ensure that all homework is recorded in their planner when the work is set
- Ensure that all homework is completed by the deadlines set
- Ask for assistance and clarification on completion of homework before the set deadline
- Take advantage of any facilities and resources in school which exist to help with completion of homework
- Inform staff of any problems in the completion of homework
- Accept sanctions which may be imposed for non-completion of homework

The Role of Parents/Carers

The role of the parent/carer in supporting their child in establishing good study habits is vital. Parents and carers are expected to support the academy in their child's completion of homework in a variety of ways:

- Providing a quiet area and time for the child to complete homework
- Checking the homework diary weekly for homework set and signing the planner
- Liaising with school if there are problems in the student completing homework
- Supporting the academy in sanctions for non-completion of homework

The Role of the Subject Teacher

The Subject Teacher will:

- Ensure that appropriate homework is set according to department policy
- Ensure that quality learning homework is set
- Ensure that all students understand the nature of the homework set and what they are required to do
- Ensure that all homework is recorded in students' planner
- Monitor the progress of the completion of homework
- Assess completed homework and ensure that positive, constructive feedback is provided for the students
- Impose sanctions for non-completion of tasks, in conjunction with departmental and academy procedures
- Reward students appropriately

Monitoring of Homework

Feedback

- Homework will be marked as soon as is possible using departmental marking criteria
- DIRT activities may form the starter to a lesson based on the homework task
- Completion of homework should be rewarded appropriately
- Homework should be referred to in the annual reporting cycle
- Records of non-completion of homework should also be kept. The Head of Department, tutor and parents should be informed when homework is not completed on a regular basis



Ormiston Sheffield

Community Academy

- Sanctions should be put in place for homework not completed. Sanctions may include
 - Phone call home
 - Lunch time detention by subject teacher
 - Department/Curriculum Leader detention
 - Afterschool detention

Roles & Responsibilities

The Tutor will:

- Monitor the student's planner weekly and sign when the check has been completed
- Monitor students are meeting deadlines
- Check parents/carers are regularly checking and signing the student's planner
- Inform Curriculum Leaders/Progress Co-ordinators where insufficient homework is being set

Curriculum Leaders will:

- Ensure quality homework is embedded into Schemes of Work
- Ensure that if feedback is appropriate it is in line with department and academy policy
- Undertake checks of students' homework as part of the work scrutiny process
- Support department staff in ensuring that student's complete homework
- Take the necessary action to ensure the policy and practice is carried out

Progress Coordinators will:

- Promote the importance of homework with students and parents
- Take the necessary action to ensure the policy and practice is carried out

The Senior Leadership Team will:

- Support the Academy in its homework policy with students and parents
- Monitor homework policy implementation through work scrutinies and Student Planner scrutinies
- Provide CPD when appropriate for developing the quality of homework
- Provide support for setting creative and challenging homework tasks through the Learning and Teaching Team
- Take the necessary action to ensure policy and practice is carried out