



Holte School

Homework Policy

Lead member of staff:	V. Mann (Deputy Headteacher – Curriculum)
Legislation Status: (Statutory/Non-Statutory)	Non-Statutory
Local Authority Model Policy or School Written Policy:	School Written Policy
Required on school website:	Yes
Revision Date:	June 2024
Date Ratified by Full Governing Body:	September 2024
Signed by Chair of Governors:	J Humpherson

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Changes/updates to the policy since last ratified

Updates to the platforms used – VEM June 2024

Homework Policy

Homework is a valuable part of school, allowing for the practise, extension and consolidation of work undertaken in class. In addition, it provides training for students in planning and organising their time; establishing habits of study that will serve students for the rest of their lives.

All homework should have a clear purpose and relevance to programmes of study. It should challenge and extend pupils and be appropriate to their individual needs. Homework can include; research, extended projects, online activities, revision, reading, coursework tasks, editing and improvement of class work, preparation for class activities and extension activities. Homework projects may be within, or across subjects and help to develop pupils' synoptic learning habits.

At Holte School we also encourage the use of online platforms and apps that are relevant to departments, for example Seneca, GCSEPod, Dr Frost Maths and Sparx Maths. These are used at the discretion of departments and can be used independently by students to support additional study, revision and retrieval.

We have developed a Remote Learning Folder via the school e-system. This supports learning in a variety of contexts and can be used as appropriate for setting homework options for pupils in all year groups. In addition, many departments use Microsoft Teams to provide class groups with tasks and messages about homework; all pupils have Teams as part of their school email system and should be checking it regularly for information.

Homework also provides parents and carers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children, aiding in a strengthened home-school link.

Homework is most beneficial when:

- It reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- Parents or carers are involved in the implementation of the school's homework policy
- Students take responsibility for their homework, supported by their parents or carers
- It is well coordinated, and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- Teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, stage of schooling and capabilities of students
- It takes into account students' home responsibilities and extracurricular activities such as clubs, sport and part-time employment
- It is marked promptly and accurately
- Feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- It develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study
- It is responded to within a given time

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. This will be based on whole-school guidance, plus teacher and department discretion, at a class and pupil level. Homework can, and will, be set at various levels; class-specific, departmental and cross-curricular, in order to stretch and enrich pupil learning, independence and opportunity. **In addition to any compulsory homework, pupils will at times be provided with optional tasks and competitions via Seneca that they can choose to take part in. Teachers will be clear at the point of setting tasks whether they are compulsory or optional.**

Each pupil is given a homework diary at the beginning of each term. Pupils should use it to record when homework for each subject area is set and when it is due in. We try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class. We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to pupils.

In KS4 and 5, all students in addition to completing any specific homework tasks, need to undertake work at home in order to fulfil the coursework requirements laid down by the Examination Board. The nature of much of the work involved, together with the specialised resources and facilities sometimes required, means that some students may not always be able to complete homework at home. Accordingly, for all students appropriate facilities will be made available during most lunchtimes and, on certain occasions, at the end of the school day.

Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment and tracking- *see the Assessment policy*. We aim to provide homework feedback as soon as possible, for inclusion in that specific module of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind. This is important in completing the learning cycle and can include either individual marking, or whole class feedback- *see feedback guidance*. If homework is not completed and submitted appropriate action is taken.

Parents and carers can help by:

- Taking an active interest in homework.
- Ensuring that there is time set aside for homework.
- Encouraging and supporting students to complete homework.
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study.
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events.
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about the nature of homework and their children's approach to the homework through the planner/diary.
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Teachers can help by:

- Explaining to students and their parents or carers the purpose and benefits of homework.
- Ensuring students and parents or carers are aware of the school's homework policy.
- Providing quality homework activities related to classwork.
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student.
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed.
- Giving students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations and extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers.
- Marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to students and parents or carers.
- alerting parents or carers of any developing problems concerning their children's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use to assist their children with their homework

Students can help by:

- Being aware of the importance of homework.
- Being aware of their school's homework policy.
- Completing homework within the given time frame.
- Alerting parents or carers to homework expectations.
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents or carers when difficulties arise.
- Showing their homework to their parents or carers.
- Ensuring homework is of a high standard.
- Organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework within set deadlines.

Holte School is committed to the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and is actively committed to promoting all articles of the convention in all areas of the school and its work. The following articles are protected and promoted through this policy – **articles 13, 15, 17, 28 and 29**.

Monitoring arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually by the lead member of staff. At every review, it will be approved by the full governing board.