

HOMEWORK POLICY



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Signatures: Chair of Governor Headteacher	

FEARNHILL SCHOOL

Rationale

At Fearnhill School, we encourage the individual development of every student and see homework as integral to this. Through regular, effective homework students will have the opportunity to become self-managers; reflecting on their learning in the classroom and consolidating their understanding. Homework also allows students to prepare effectively for participation in future learning as well as encouraging their own creativity.

Aims

The homework policy at Fearnhill School is designed to clarify our view of the purpose and value of homework, its importance in developing independent learners and its contribution towards realising our vision of 'The Fearnhill Student'. It explains key procedures, systems and responsibilities for teaching and support staff, students and parents/carers.

Homework Objectives

- To encourage students to develop the practice of independent study.
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline.
- To encourage students to have self-awareness, self-confidence and initiative.
- To enable students to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom.
- To permit more rapid progress to be made by each individual; to promote quiet reflection on the work covered in the lesson.
- To encourage students to investigate topics of study in depth, particularly through the use of effective follow-up questions.
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom.
- To encourage students to enjoy the skills, concepts and experiences related to each subject.
- To encourage students to talk, discuss and research using the rich variety of resources which our community can provide.

Definition of Homework

Homework refers to any learning task which a student is asked to do outside the classroom. It should be differentiated for student ability. Examples may include:

- Research
- Preparation for next lesson
- Consolidation of classwork
- Completion of past examination questions
- Coursework
- A practical task
- Revision, mind mapping and summarising

Procedures

Every year group will be issued with a homework timetable. This will show which subjects are set on which days and will be published on the school website and emailed to parents. It will help students organise their independent learning and parents can keep track of what is expected. The homework timetable will be available to access on the school website under 'Homework'. Advice for parents and students to help them plan their time to do their homework will also be available.

No subject will set homework with a turnaround time of less than 48 hours so that students' commitments can be managed and pressure points avoided.

Guidelines for how much time should be spent on homework by students are: Key Stage 3 - 30 minutes per subject; Key Stage 4 - 45 minutes per subject; Key Stage 5 - 60 minutes per subject per lesson.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be recognised and rewarded in class. The reward system should be applied to acknowledge and encourage good effort and attainment with homework.

Expectations of Students

Students should recognise the value of homework and be aware of its capacity to improve learning. They will be encouraged to use Show My Homework to ensure their workload is as evenly spread as possible.

They will meet the expectations of staff that homework will be completed and returned on time and make use of the support available to them.

They will be aware of the consequences if homework is not completed on time or to a suitable standard.

It is important that students of all abilities are set appropriate homework. Homework activities may be differentiated, in both content and length, to be appropriate for the students' ability. Tasks may be set for students to complete at their own level of understanding. Staff will also aim to ensure there is a wide variety of tasks that will be of interest to all students. A separate document outlines good practice in setting homework.

If home circumstances make completing a piece of homework very difficult, then parents or students are encouraged to inform the class teacher. If a student is struggling with homework, he or she should see the teacher at least 24 hours before the deadline to seek advice.

Students Who Fail to Complete Homework

Students will be asked to come back at lunchtime by the subject teacher for failing to hand in homework on time, for failing to complete homework or for failing to complete homework to an adequate standard. They will then be supervised to do the work outstanding. This will be logged on Sims. An L1 detention will be given if the student fails to attend at lunchtime as required. Staff may remove students from the formal detention to support them with homework if they have been given a homework detention. For sixth form

students, a phone call home is appropriate. For repeated occurrences, the Assistant Head of Sixth Form will convene a meeting with parents.

Expectations of Staff

All homework, including homework for sixth form, will be recorded by teachers on Show My Homework. The school provides passwords to all parents so that they can access the personalised views of Show My Homework. Teachers should remember to:

- Set the homework showing the date issued and the date due, as required by the homework timetable.
- Attach any appropriate files to ensure students can readily access them.
- Show the appropriate time expected for the work to take.

A quality and worthwhile piece of homework should be:

- Challenging
- Appropriate for the allocated time for each Key Stage
- Differentiated
- Relevant to the current topic
- Engaging

Separate guidance for setting quality homework tasks has been made available to the staff.

Feedback

Teachers will always respond to homework. This may take the form of formal marking with targeted feedback according to the school marking policy, but may also include peer marking or class discussions and extended questioning. Students will benefit from positive reinforcement for their efforts. Feedback will enhance the learning outcomes of the homework.

Commitment to Being Inclusive

Fearnhill School is committed to providing opportunities for students to study both before and after school whenever possible. Homework set by teachers may, as part of a rich and varied diet supporting a student's learning, include tasks that require them to use ICT for research or the completion of work. It may also be required that homework is sometimes submitted electronically. For students without internet access at home, the library is available at break or lunchtime. For students with special educational needs, the Inclusion department will make available supervised time each week for students to complete homework with support if required.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring of the setting, completion and marking of homework is part of the school monitoring calendar. This will include periodic consultation with students and parents and a commitment to follow up promptly any issues raised. The monitoring will also involve checking on the quality and frequency of homework and independent learning opportunities.