



Homework Policy

Aims:

At Kirkstone House School our major aims in setting homework are:

- To raise achievement:
This is effected through the additional study time which homework requires and provides. There is a strong connection between high achievement, examination success and time spent on homework. Well-set homework offers appropriate challenges based on the reinforcement, consolidation and extension of work done in lessons. It should be consistently marked and formative comments made by staff.
- To increase motivation:
Pupils should be encouraged to undertake independent learning at home as an essential part of their education. They must be made aware of the link between good study habits, high standards of organisation and achievement, and examination success.
Rewards in the form of house points for good homework help to improve effort. Conversely, sanctions for poor standards will also be applied.
- To develop independent study skills:
Pupils must progressively learn to take responsibility for their learning and develop the skills, attitudes and confidence necessary to study effectively throughout their lives.
As they move up the School, there will be increasing demands placed on them. They need to develop good organisational skills such as time-management, prioritising and meeting deadlines.
- To encourage a strong partnership between parents and School:
Through helping pupils with opportunities to use resources and materials not available in all lessons (eg visits, newspapers, television and radio, further use of computers, internet, libraries). It is most important that pupils have time and space for quiet uninterrupted study. Further assistance is given through the regular monitoring of pupil planners in both Key Stages.



Policy

To achieve these aims:

1. Homework is an integral part of the School's curriculum and as such is assessed and monitored in line with academic procedures.
2. Homework timetables are published at the start of every academic year and copied into pupil planners. In this way pupils, parents and staff are all aware of expectations.
3. Homework is spread evenly across the week to help pupils manage their time.
4. Examination coursework replaces homework in a given subject and is not additional to it.
5. In setting homework teachers are sensitive to the pupils' needs to access resources.
6. The time allocation of homework is devised in such a way as to be manageable by all pupils. It is recognised that pupils of differing abilities will not all complete the same volume of work in the allocated time.
7. Pupils preparing for public examinations may be advised of the need to commit extra time.
8. Homework is not set for non-examination classes during holidays. (Years 7, 8 & 9).
9. Homework during holiday time is only set as appropriate. If a parent withdraws a pupil from school for a holiday during term time staff should not be expected to provide homework.
10. Formal homework should not generally be set for two weeks before examinations both public and internal. Time needs to be available for pupils to revise independently and to seek appropriate support and help in doing so.
11. The amount and type of homework varies as pupils move up the School.



Setting and Monitoring Homework

Teachers

- Homework tasks should be set with the aim of encouraging self-motivation and independence.
- Homework should not be set in a hurry nor during the last few minutes of the lesson.
- Homework tasks should be challenging but within the pupils' capabilities.
- Tasks should take account of resources.
- Homework should be differentiated to take account of abilities and interests.
- 'Finishing off' homework should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- Homework should not be given out as a punishment.
- Marking of homework should be carried out regularly and be formative in nature.
- Homework should be discussed regularly with pupils.
- Homework should be regularly reviewed together with Schemes of Work.

Tutors

- Check pupil planners and debits on a weekly basis.
- Discuss homework with pupils who fail to meet deadlines.
- Communicate with parents about homework issues.
- Inform staff of any issues which may impact on the completion of homework.
- The SENCO will liaise with tutors in relation to pupils receiving learning support.



Deputy Headmistress and Headmistress

- Conduct book trawls to monitor classwork and homework.
- Meet with pupils to discuss work as a follow up to Progress Reviews and Report Reading.

Links with other Policies: Curriculum Policy
Teaching & Learning Policy
SEN Policy

Signed:

Cosmine Hares.

(Headteacher)

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