



OLDFIELD SCHOOL
Homework Policy

1. Context

- 1.1. Students of all ages and abilities stand to benefit from the completion of appropriate homework. Homework is defined as “any work or activities which students are asked to do outside of lesson time, either on their own, with another student or with their parents”.
- 1.2. We recognise the vital role that parents play in the education of their child. We strongly believe in the value of a good home-school partnership, which our homework policy reflects.

2. The purpose of homework

- 2.1. Homework is set with a variety of intended outcomes. These include:
 - Encouraging students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study effectively on their own;
 - Consolidating and reinforcing the skills and understanding developed at school;
 - Extending school learning to engage and inspire students;
 - Allowing students to practise their study skills in new contexts so they can retain knowledge and know how they learn best;
 - Opportunities for personalised learning where the task given is specific to students’ individual learning needs;
 - Developing and sustaining the involvement of parents in the management of students’ learning, and keep them informed about the work students are doing;
 - Exploiting resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
 - Emphasising to students that study and learning are not activities to be compartmentalised into school and out of home life;
 - Helping students to manage the demands of courses, e.g. preparation for controlled assessments and examinations;
 - Ensuring that students recognise the links between good study habits and higher standards of achievement.
- 2.2. As a school, we encourage children to pursue out-of-school activities. Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. We hope that parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work completed at home is done so conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

3. Types of homework

- 3.1. Homework tasks have a clear objective, linked to subject schemes of work.
- 3.2. The type and scale of tasks is varied over a period of time and consideration is given so that the demands are manageable for both students and teachers.
- 3.3. Examples of suitable homework tasks include reading, written tasks, researching, exercises to practise a skill, collecting, creative tasks, interviewing, revision or memorising tasks and projects.

- 3.4. When setting homework tasks, consideration must be given to the individual needs of students and it may be necessary to differentiate tasks to provide stretch and challenge to more able students or to give additional support to less able students.
- 3.5. Homework should not be used regularly for finishing off work carried out in class as this imposes too light a burden on some students and too heavy a burden on others.
- 3.6. Any activity which assumes home ownership of specific resources should be avoided.

4. Quantity of Homework

- 4.1. Subject teachers ensure that the frequency and quantity of homework is in line with the following guidelines:
 - 4.1.1. At Key Stage 3, students are to be set homework per week of not more than 30 minutes per subject.
 - 4.1.2. At Key Stage 4, students are to be set homework per week of not more than 45 minutes per subject.
 - 4.1.3. In most subjects, this equates to one homework per week. Some subjects will set project-type homework over a longer period. Guidance should be given to students as to how this can be broken down over a series of weeks in accordance with the timescales set out above.

5. Show My Homework

- 5.1. The school uses the Show My Homework calendar to manage the homework process and measure the efficacy of work set. The Show My Homework calendar makes it easy for our school to effectively track and monitor the impact of homework.
- 5.2. For our teachers, it provides an easy way to set and communicate homework details.
- 5.3. For parents, it will provide visibility and transparency regarding the homework details and deadlines.
- 5.4. The school homework calendar can be accessed by students and parents without login details at any time by going to the school website and clicking the homework link. Students and parents/carers will receive a username and password from the school. Logging in allows access to a personalised homework calendar.
- 5.5. Students, teachers and parents can use the filters to find the homework that has been set.
- 5.6. All teachers are expected to set homework using Show My Homework.
- 5.7. The school Contact Book will still be used by the school and students will have the option to write the homework down. Students will not be forced to write down the homework in their planners.
- 5.8. There is also a free iOS and Android App for students and parents to download. Downloading the app will provide push notifications and reminders about new homework set, and homework deadlines.

6. Sixth Form Individual Study

- 6.1. Sixth Form students are expected to work with a high degree of independence both at school and at home. They should plan their work outside of lessons and include activities appropriate to their course.
- 6.2. Homework will be set by teachers and, as a guide, each subject should be providing three to four hours of self-study activities per week. Where the teaching is shared between teachers, the time should be broken down between them.

7. Feedback on homework

- 7.1. In line with the Feedback Policy, it is expected that most homework tasks are marked and returned to students within one week of the deadline. For some tasks, such as extended

project work, it may be appropriate for this feedback to take place over a longer period of time.

7.2. Feedback on homework tasks should be given in line with the guidelines of the Feedback Policy.

8. The role of parents and carers

8.1. Parents are encouraged to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful place for doing homework;
- Make it clear to children that they value homework and support the school in showing how it can help them make progress;
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are;
- Give praise for the completion of homework.

8.2. An Information Evening for Year 7 parents is held during Term 1 each year, during which the procedures for homework are outlined and the role of parents in supporting students' homework is emphasised.

8.3. Parents are encouraged to use Show My Homework to monitor students' homework.

9. Reporting

9.1. Reports to parents include a numerical grade in the Learning Profiles section against the following criteria. These criteria assess the quality of homework and diligence in completing homework tasks in line with deadlines.

Quality of Homework	
1	Completed to best of ability and always on time
2	Completed usually to best of ability; rarely late
3	Completed but below ability; sometimes late
4	Incomplete and well below ability; often late
5	Rarely completed; always late if it is submitted
N/A	No homework set (e.g. PE)

9.2. Teachers should make parents aware when homework is not completed; receiving a report should not be the first time a parent discovers there is a problem with homework.

9.3. When homework is not completed, teachers should receive a sanction in line with the stepped approach outlined in the Positive Behaviour for Learning policy.

10. Monitoring Homework

9.4. The school will use a variety of reports in Show My Homework to ensure homework is set with purpose, is good quality and is set consistently and effectively across the school.

9.5. The homework frequency report will be used to ensure that homework is set consistently and evenly throughout a term for each class.

9.6. Homework set for each year group will be monitored via the School Overview report. This will ensure that each year group is set an appropriate amount of homework.

9.7. The quality of homework will be reviewed through the Issued Homework report to ensure a high standard of homework set throughout the school.

9.8. Heads of Faculty and Subject are expected to monitor the frequency and quality of homework being set in their subject or faculty. This is a regular feature of line management meetings. Members of the SLT will also produce and review reports on the quantity and quality of homework.

9.9. All staff have access to reports on the quantity and quality of homework being set throughout the school.

10. Monitoring and review

- 10.1. The Homework policy will be monitored by the Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning.
- 10.2. This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Assistant Headteacher: Teaching and Learning.
- 10.3. This policy will be approved by SLT.
- 10.4. Date when policy was last approved: April 2015
- 10.5. Date when next review is due: April 2017