

Homework

Homework is a generic term which pupils, parents and schools readily recognise. At North Axholme it encompasses other activities and descriptors such as out of hours learning, coursework, extension activities, etc.

RATIONALE

The aim of the homework policy is to promote learning beyond the normal class lesson. Homework not only reinforces classroom learning, it also helps pupils to further develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning. It supports the development of independent learning skills, including the habits of enquiry and investigation.

PRINCIPLES

School:

- The school will keep parents informed of the Homework Policy and the expectations of individual pupils.
- Homework tasks should be carefully planned as part of a department's Scheme of Work. It is important that homework forms a meaningful part of the work of the particular subject.
- Each subject will set regular homework tasks within the context of the specific needs and arrangements within each subject. A homework timetable will be produced in September that will indicate which subjects may set homework each day. This is designed to ensure that too much homework is not set on a given night.
- There will be times when it is not appropriate to set homework according to the timetable. These will be rare and when this occurs the teacher will write none set in the diary. Where extended tasks have been set pupils should enter this fact in the diary.
- Homework tasks should be varied in style and appropriate to the needs of individuals. Tasks may include, for example, research, learning, reading for understanding, extended tasks where the teacher provides 'milestones' over a period of time, graphic/pictorial display, explorations, collection of resources, interviews etc.
- In Key Stage 4 GCSE and other coursework becomes very important. At the beginning of the year a coursework deadline sheet will be produced that will detail final deadlines in each subject and any interim deadlines or

milestones. This will be provided for pupils, parents and staff so that all are clear from the outset. Extended coursework tasks may be set for a series of homework's. The teacher will be expected to check regularly that pupils are on course for successful completion of high quality homework.

- Teachers will keep a record of homework tasks and provide high quality, diagnostic and developmental feedback in accordance with the department's marking policy and assessment for learning techniques. Feedback will be prompt and may be a combination of sources: teacher, peer, self and parent.
- The introduction of a MLE (managed learning environment) in 2005 will provide a new learning platform that will allow appropriate homework tasks, supporting materials and link sites to be placed in the relevant subject area and for pupils to access and submit their homework from home.
- The school will support pupils in their completion of homework tasks through access to study facilities, including the library (Learning Resource Centre?) and ICT suites, at lunchtime and after school. Late buses will allow pupils to stay in school to complete homework for longer periods on Tuesday and Thursday nights until 4.30pm.
- Pupils will receive guidelines at the beginning of each academic year, detailing homework expectations and requirements.

Pupils:

- Pupils will be encouraged and supported to take responsibility for their "home" learning, including managing their time, meeting all extended coursework deadlines and seeking extended learning opportunities.
- A "Homework Diary" will be given to each pupil at the beginning of each academic year. Pupils will be required to take responsibility for the recording of all homework tasks and will ensure their understanding of the work to be undertaken. The diary should be brought to school every day and placed on their desk at the beginning of every lesson.
- Pupils will be encouraged to view learning outside the classroom as more than the specific homework set. Such activities as reading around subjects; undertaking extended personal research; or simply organising folders and notes are ways in which a pupil can positively impact on their performance.
- When pupils fail to complete their homework their subject teacher will be the first to know. They will provide the opportunity for the pupil to complete the work at another time that is convenient for them. This may well be at break or lunch time. Departments may also organise their own opportunities for pupils

to complete homework. Pupils who repeatedly fail to complete homework will be required to take advantage of study opportunities provided on Tuesday and Thursday nights when a late bus is provided at 4.30pm. Continued failure to comply will result in a school detention that will take place on Friday nights.

Parents:

- The support of parents and carers is seen as essential. Helping, monitoring, providing feedback, encouraging and creating an appropriate learning environment.
- When a pupil fails to complete homework and they are required to complete it in their own time (at break, lunch time or after school) we rely on parental support to ensure that the pupil completes the work and understands that the school and they are in agreement.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide support and to contact school about homework should concerns or issues arise.
- Increasing use of the school MLE for homework tasks will give parents better access to up-to-date information about homework tasks.

TIME GUIDELINES

Homework will be set on a regular basis in each subject area. The nature and length of the homework will vary according to the needs of the subject and course being followed. North Axholme's Homework Policy uses, as a guide, government recommendations (DfES Teachernet website) regarding weekly time allocation. The amount of time spent on homework per day should fall within the following range:

Years 7 and 8	20 to 30 minutes per subject – up to 90 minutes per day
Year 9	30 to 40 minutes per subject – up to 2 hours per day
Years 10 and 11	40 to 45 minutes per subject – up to up to 2 hours and 15 mins per day

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- The school will review this policy annually to assess its implementation and effectiveness
- Subject coordinators will monitor, on an ongoing basis, with subject colleagues the effective implementation of homework practices.
- Heads of Year will provide support and guidance, and mentor pupils as necessary.
- Feedback to and from pupils and parents will be sought and provided.
- Parents will be encouraged to monitor homework and to inform the school should issues arise.
- The Leadership team will monitor the effective implementation of the Homework Policy, including individual pupil sampling and discussions with parents as part of whole school self evaluation.

Due to the recent introduction of a range of new vocational courses, it is necessary to revise our Homework Policy in order to accommodate the specific needs of these qualifications.

Students studying our KS4 vocational courses will not be consistently set a weekly homework task. The regularity and quantity of homework set will vary depending upon:

- The unit of work being studied (i.e. whether it is portfolio based or externally assessed).
- Whether it is appropriate for work to be completed off-site, given the stage an individual is at within a particular unit of work.
- Whether a student is up to date with their portfolio and is therefore on target to achieve the published course deadlines.

Whilst running these courses, we place an onus on independent learning rather than teacher led activities. Students are therefore encouraged to take responsibility for tracking their own progress and identifying what work needs to be completed in order to achieve their deadlines. If a student is clearly unable to manage their learning in this way, their teacher will intervene by giving more direction and being more prescriptive about what is expected of them.

Last Update July 2008