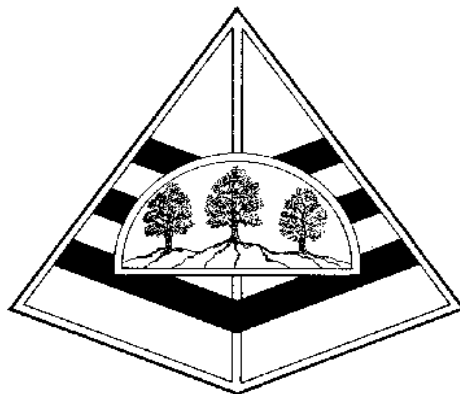


FERNDOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL



HOMework POLICY

Policy to be reviewed by governor committee	Community & Curriculum Committee
Frequency:	Annually

This policy has been reviewed in line with the 8 principles set out in the Single Equality Policy and an initial screening Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out.

Ferndown Middle School

Homework Policy

Reference to the UNCRC

The United Nations Charter for the Rights of the Child outlines the rights that all children across the world should enjoy. This policy, whilst reflecting the ethos of the entire document, will take particular reference of the following articles of the charter:

Article 3 ~ All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.

Article 13 ~ You have the right to find out things and share what you think with others, by talking, drawing, writing or in any other way unless it harms or offends other people.

Article 17 ~ You have the right to information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspapers, books, computers and other sources.

Article 23 ~ You have the right to special education and care if you have a disability, as well as all the rights in this convention, so that you can live a full life.

Article 28 ~ You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29 ~ Your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 31 ~ You have the right to play and rest.

Introduction

At Ferndown Middle School we believe that homework can make an important contribution to pupils' progress at in all areas of their learning, at school, personally and in their engagement in activities beyond school.

All pupils in all year groups are expected to do homework, with the amount required increasing with age. Therefore, in order to be effective, homework needs to be a part of the partnership between parents and school. Through this policy we aim to clarify the roles and responsibilities for all those concerned with the setting and completion of homework.

Aims of the Homework Policy

- ◆ Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- ◆ Ensure progression towards independence and individual responsibility.
- ◆ Ensure the needs of the individual pupil are taken into account.
- ◆ Ensure that parents / guardians have a clear understanding about expectations for homework and their role in supporting their children in this aspect of learning.

Rationale of Homework

- ◆ Improve the quality and diversity of learning opportunities offered to pupils.
- ◆ Provide opportunities for parents and pupils to work together to enjoy learning.
- ◆ Encourage students to develop long term strategies for independent work and study.
- ◆ Offer pupils a range of learning activities that make use of the full range of learning styles.
- ◆ Develop strategies for pupils to extend their own learning in areas of personal interest.
- ◆ Help pupils to develop skills in organisation and meeting deadlines.

Purposes of Homework Tasks

- ♦ To revise and review previous learning to highlight areas of strength and need for development.
- ♦ To reinforce concepts taught in class.
- ♦ To prepare for future learning, for example by undertaking initial research.
- ♦ To develop the learning and activities of a particular lesson.
- ♦ To apply knowledge and skills in new or unfamiliar contexts.

Responsibilities

Teachers:

- ♦ are expected to set all homework tasks using the Show My Homework online homework tracking software as a way of recording the homework set.
- ♦ are responsible for ensuring that all homework tasks are explained fully to pupils in their lesson (and not simply put onto Show My Homework with no explanation).
- ♦ are required to give out a hard copy of all worksheets to pupils and, wherever possible, to put a digital copy of the sheet onto Show My Homework.
- ♦ are expected to set appropriate homework according to the needs of the child, differentiated where necessary.
- ♦ are required to set homework in relation to the published timetable and the allotted time for completion, recorded on the Show My Homework system.
- ♦ should give clear guidance about the requirements of the tasks and the deadlines for completion, using Show My Homework.
- ♦ should give pupils appropriate feedback about their homework. This may take various forms and will not always be written.
- ♦ are responsible for checking that homework tasks have been recorded carefully in pupils' homework diaries.
- ♦ should set a variety of tasks using a wide range of activities and resources, avoiding reliance on I.C.T. and Internet based tasks.
- ♦ are expected to keep accurate and careful records of the completion of homework by each pupils and record this on Show My Homework.

Pupils:

- ♦ are responsible for checking the Show My Homework website and ensuring that when homework has been completed, it moved onto their completed list.
- ♦ are responsible for keeping their homework diaries neat and clear.
- ♦ need to record all homework tasks set accurately in their diaries and not rely only on the Show My Homework website.
- ♦ must complete homework by the deadline set and within the time guidelines established for each subject.
- ♦ should spend the required amount of time on the homework task.
- ♦ complete all homework tasks to the best of their ability.

Parents & Guardians:

- ♦ provide encouragement for their children when undertaking homework tasks.
- ♦ provide a suitable working atmosphere in which children can complete homework.
- ♦ check that homework tasks have been completed appropriately and on time, using information on Show My Homework if this is available to them.
- ♦ sign homework diaries every week, communicating through the diary with the teacher if there are any problems with the completion of the homework.
- ♦ support the school in this important aspect of their child's learning.

Homework Programme

	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7	Year 8
English	30 minutes	30 minutes	45 minutes	45minutes
Reading	3 times per week	3 times per week	3 times per week	3 times per week
Spellings	Set and tested weekly	Set and tested weekly	Set and tested weekly	Set and tested weekly
Maths	30 minutes	30 minutes	45 minutes	45minutes
Science or Geography (KS3)			40 minutes	40 minutes
History (KS3 Only)			30 minutes	30 minutes
I.C.T.	None set	None set	None set	None set
Humanities		20 minutes		
French	None set	None set	40 minutes	40 minutes
Art	One homework task per rotation	One homework task per rotation	One homework task per rotation	One homework task per rotation
P.E.	None Set	None Set	None Set	None Set
Music	None Set	None Set	None Set	None Set
R.E.	None set	None set	One homework task per half term	One homework task per half term
P.S.H.C.E.	None set	None set	One homework task per unit	One homework task per unit
Design	None set	None set	One homework task per rotation	One homework task per rotation

Please note the following points:

1. Reading is set as a specific homework task and pupils are required to read regularly during the course of each week, noting the book and author in their homework diaries. It is expected that pupils will be heard read at least 3 times per week.
2. The learning of spellings and practice of multiplication tables will be set in addition to the homework timetable outlined above where necessary.
3. *As required' – these subjects will appear on the homework timetable, but will only be set when appropriate tasks are relevant to the stage of the topic or work being completed.
4. There must be some flexibility in the timing of tasks – a slightly longer task in one week should be countered by a shorter task the following week.
5. The length of a homework task will be appropriate to the ability of the pupils – in a lower ability group the length of tasks set may be considerably reduced.
6. **Additional finishing off may be given to individual pupils where they have not used lesson time effectively to complete the work given.**

Absence from school and completion of homework

- If a pupil is away on the day that a homework was set, there is no obligation to complete the homework. However, the task will appear on their Show My Homework record and so pupils can find out details of the task whilst off school. Pupils may decide to do this homework to keep up with their learning.

If a pupil is off school for a longer period of time, the following guidance is given for the completion of homework tasks.

- Short Term – The teacher to speak to the pupil/parent and come to an agreement about what needs to be done / whether it is possible or appropriate if the pupil has missed the input. The emphasis will be on pupils having completed work that they need in order to be able to keep up as pupils could become overwhelmed with catching up with missed tasks and completing current homework.
- Long Term – Homework tasks to be included and sent home to the pupil alongside work set to complete at home, probably via the Show My Homework website. On returning to school, there is no obligation for these pupils to catch up.

Projects

- ♦ A project is defined as a piece of homework which is scheduled to take 3 or more homework sessions. The project should be broken down into steps and each step checked off on a week by week basis.
- ♦ All assignments are to be accompanied with a printed sheet and a web page detailing the task, success criteria, information for parents, deadlines and possible resources. These details will also be put onto the Show My Homework website.
- ♦ Assignments form part of the medium term planning for a unit of work and be consistently set across a department.
- ♦ Projects must be differentiated appropriately, not purely by outcome.
- ♦ Projects take the place of the homework in the subject in which it is set. No other homework can be set for the subject whilst the project is under completion.

Research

Where homework tasks include research, it is important to note the following points:

- ♦ Pupils are encouraged to make use of the library and books in addition to the Internet.
- ♦ Pages printed from the Internet (or copied and pasted) will not be accepted as a response to a research homework unless the task given was only to gather information.
- ♦ Teachers may provide pupils with possible starting points for research – for example useful web pages or books.
- ♦ When setting research tasks, teachers will make clear the purpose and outcome of the work (ie recording five key points, presenting an information page, etc).

Study Support Facilities

Within school, there are a range of resources available to support pupils in their completion of homework.

- ♦ The School Library: there are many resources available to pupils in the library, and subject teachers often liaise with the librarian to ensure that books relating to a particular topic are made easily available. The school library is also open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings after school from 3:30 – 4:30pm for pupils to use the books and resources available.
- ♦ Lunch time homework club: run by teaching assistants, a room is made available for pupils to complete homework at lunchtimes. This is predominantly for pupils with particular educational needs but is available to all pupils, although numbers must be limited.

- ♦ I.C.T. lunch time homework club: also run by teaching assistants, a computer room is available for pupils to complete tasks. It is important to note that this is for the completion of specific tasks recorded in the homework diary and cannot be for pupils to engage in personal I.C.T. related activities.
- ♦ The School Website: contains a number of links and useful information that can help with homework tasks. It is being added to and updated regularly.
- ♦ After School Homework Club: this is by invitation only and is aimed at pupils with specific educational needs. If you feel your child would benefit from this support, please contact Mrs. Hitchins, the SEND Co-ordinator.
- ♦ Mentoring Support: will be made available to pupils who have had significant problems organising or completing homework tasks. Referral to this support will be made by the Teaching and Learning Manager for the pupil's year group, or by the SEND Coordinator.

Non-completion of Homework and failure to meet deadlines

We appreciate that there can be occasional problems with the completion of homework. Where an issue arises, this should be communicated with the subject teacher or the pupil's tutor. Contact can be made either by note in the homework diary or letter, or by telephone. When there is a problem with the completion of homework, pupils should endeavour to find their teacher before the lesson in order to discuss the best way to resolve the problem.

However, since we view homework as an important element in a pupil's progress, non-completion of homework or failure to meet deadlines will result in the child being given a lunchtime detention to complete the homework in (this can be served in the detention room, ICT room or homework room) . This is recorded on a behaviour slip and this is managed in the same way as stated in the school behaviour policy.

Parents and pupils are reminded that all homework tasks are recorded on the Show My Homework website.