



Brentford School for Girls

HOMEWORK POLICY

Date: January 2019

Date of review: January 2020

Rationale

Homework is work that needs to be completed outside of the timetabled curriculum. The primary purpose for homework is to encourage the pupils to become independent learners. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.

Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Aims

Homework enables pupils:

- To consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- To develop research skills.
- To complete independent work.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for their own learning.
- To engage parental co-operation and support.
- To create channels for home school dialogue.

Ethos and Expectations

- The purpose of homework is to enhance and extend learning; the homework should have a relevant place within the scheme of work.
- The homework should be varied with differentiated tasks to meet the needs of all students and enable success.
- Homework remains the responsibility of the curriculum area and each class teacher needs to instil the purpose of the homework task into the lesson.
- There will be an expectation that all homework is completed and any difficulties with the homework will be explored so the student has success with their homework and also in their following task.
- The support for completing homework will come from the class teacher, Form Tutor, Head of Year and parents.

There will be a homework timetable given to every student. The homework timetable will act as a guide so pupils and their parents will know that they should expect homework. The journal will be used to organise students and support the communication between school and home.

All pupils are expected to read for a minimum of 20 minutes every day.

Homework will be set in accordance with the program of study planned for the year; it will reflect the age, year and ability of the pupil:

- Building skills, enthuse and encourage at KS3
- Independent skills, flip learning, consolidation and revision at KS4
- Independent enquiry, flip learning, consolidation and revision at KS5

At KS3 the core subjects of English, Maths and Science will set homework on a weekly basis. History, Geography may also set weekly but there will be times when work will be project based. MFL may set vocabulary learning work. Technology, Art, Music and Drama may often set extended projects.

The expectation in KS4 will change and students will be given homework weekly by all their subjects except PSHCE and Core PE.

In some subjects, homework may be set via an electronic platform such as Frog.

During exam periods will be focused on revision tasks.

Brentford Values:

Homework should be used to instil the Brentford values, Pupils should be inquisitive, they should be encouraged to explore and research topics. In addition they will be given the opportunity to reflect on the work they have completed in order to improve. We want pupils to be flexible when choosing topics, to look at information from all angles and avoid having a fixed mind-set. We want to instil confidence so that pupils can be courageous and take risks with their work; they should try out ideas without worrying about the outcome. Brentford girls should understand that all mistakes are learning experiences. Finally we want the pupils to be creative, ambitious, and strive to achieve their best, in order to produce quality homework that reflects their potential.

Homework tasks can be:

- Independent flip learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of course work assignments
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording

Sanctions

Teachers should support the pupils and ensure the tasks set meet the pupils' needs. However when homework is not completed, then sanctions should be used. Teachers receive support from their Subject Leader and Senior staff. The sanctions are as follows:

The class teacher will ascertain why homework has not been completed and will set a 30 minute detention so the homework can be completed

If homework is not completed a second time the subject leader is to be informed. The pupil will receive a further 30 minutes detention and a letter will be sent home to parents. If homework is further missed the subject leader will have a meeting with the pupil and parents

If homework in this area continues to be an issue the pupil will be referred to their Head of Year.

If there are persistent problems across a number of subjects the pupil will be referred to attend a homework club. A letter will be sent home and the attendance at homework club will be compulsory for a period of 4 weeks.

The use of the journal is vital here as this will provide the record of homework set and whether the pupil has completed it and whether they have attended homework detentions.

Rewards

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be praised in class.

Rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework.

For exceptional pieces of homework, a letter or postcard may be sent home.

Where appropriate, homework may be included in display work.

Accountability

The role of the pupil

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor

- To include homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded.
- To check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

- Set homework according to the timetable and scheme of work
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework promptly.
- Provide help and support.
- Inform the Subject Leader, Tutor and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role Subject Leader

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
- To ensure that relevant homework tasks are included in the scheme of work.
- To monitor and evaluate homework within their curriculum area ensuring it is regularly set, is fit for purpose and matches the needs of the pupils
- To enforce necessary sanctions and interventions to ensure homework is completed.

The Role of the Head of Year

- To support the subject areas in ensuring homework is consistently completed.
- To intervene if students are having difficulties across the curriculum.
- To keep parents informed of any difficulties.
- To monitor the use of the journal in recording homework.

The role of the Assistant Head

- To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school.
- To review annually the school homework policy.
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy.

The role of the Parents

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
5. Signing the journal each week.
6. Providing the school with information about any problems through the journal or by contacting the school directly.

Monitoring

Pupils

Homework diaries will be checked by:

- The form tutor (weekly)
- The Head of Year (sampled each half term)
- Member of the Leadership Team (sampled termly)

Subject Staff

- Will keep a record of homework tasks as part of a lesson plan.
- Will keep a record of homework grades/marks and use the assessment to inform planning.

Subject Leader

- Will monitor the quality of homework by book scrutiny and homework marks
- Will evaluate the quality of homework ensuring it is regularly set, is fit for purpose and matches the needs of the pupils
- Will monitor the amount of detentions given within their subject area.

Assistant Head

- Will sample examples of work and talk to pupils according to monitoring programme.
- Will review school policy annually.