



Haslingden High School and Sixth Form

Whole School Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is an important part of learning. It enhances and extends the work covered in lessons, promotes independent learning skills and helps students with organisational skills and time management.

Homework should be varied to allow students to develop their skills and to improve the standard of their work.

Principles

Students should receive an appropriate amount of homework from all subject areas. It should be carefully planned in advance and appropriate to their ability. It may include:

- ✓ Writing tasks;
- ✓ Note-taking and writing up notes taken in lessons;
- ✓ Reading;
- ✓ Learning - for example: facts, vocabulary, spellings;
- ✓ Completing coursework;
- ✓ Research;
- ✓ Drawing or design work;
- ✓ Preparing for discussions or presentations;
- ✓ On-line learning;
- ✓ Answering questions;
- ✓ Completing worksheets;
- ✓ Revising for tests and exams

Roles and Responsibilities

- The Governing Body establishes, in consultation with the Headteacher, staff and parents, the homework policy and keeps it under review. Governors support the school in maintaining high standards of achievement.
- The Headteacher is responsible for the implementation and day to day management of policies and procedures; also to ensure that all staff are informed of policies and are provided with appropriate support in implementing them. Support in implementing the policy is also a key responsibility of SLT, Curriculum Leaders and Subject leaders. The Assistant

Headteacher Teaching and Learning has particular responsibility for implementing the policy.

- Teachers and cover staff are responsible for ensuring that the policy and procedures are followed, and consistently and fairly applied. Staff have responsibility for providing students with high quality homework tasks to promote independent learning.
- Students are expected to complete homework to the best of their ability and to hand it in on time.
- Parents and carers have a responsibility to support the school in implementing the homework policy.

Strategies

The length of time a student spends on a homework task will vary depending on the nature of the task and the skills of the individual however, as a general guideline, students should be set the following amounts of formal homework per week:

KS3 3-4 hours

KS4 5-6 hours

KS5 7-8 hours

KS3

Each student will be given one homework booklet from one subject per week containing a range of tasks. These tasks will be clearly differentiated with extension tasks for the most able and appropriate guidance for the least able. Booklets will contain about 3-4 hours of work to be completed over the course of the week with clear guidelines for the amount of time students should spend on individual tasks.

Additionally, students will be set another English and Maths homework per week and should be encouraged to read independently.

Booklets will be given out according to a rota. The rota and the booklets will be available on the school website and students and parents will be able to access them there. Homework booklets, in line with the school marking policy will be marked and returned to students within 3 weeks.

A homework club will be available to offer support to students who require it in completing homework.

KS4

Each formal piece of homework set at KS4 should take between 30 minutes and 1 hour to complete.

Maths, English: 1 per week for each subject;

Other examination subjects: A minimum of 1 per fortnight (Biology, Chemistry and Physics count as separate subjects)

In Years 9, 10 and 11, the varying demands of GCSE and vocational courses mean that homework may take the form of lengthier pieces of portfolio work. Staff will divide more sustained pieces of work into appropriate sections to be assessed on a regular basis so that students are aware of the progress they are making and any areas for development. Students will be made aware of deadlines for this type of homework. Where possible, students will be given a minimum of two nights to complete their homework to encourage them to manage their time independently.

A homework club will be available to offer support to students who require it.

KS5

One of the main differences of post-16 study is the amount of time that needs to be spent on studying at home. Students will be set a minimum of two pieces of formal homework per subject per week that should each take around one hour to complete.

In addition to this, students will be expected to complete independent study, which might include research, the writing up of class notes, reading or preparation. This independent study is reported on in end of block reports.

Review

- The Headteacher, in consultation with the staff, will monitor and review the Marking policy and procedures and evaluate them to ensure that the operation is effective, fair and consistent. The Headteacher will keep the Governing Body informed.
- The policy and procedures will be reviewed to ensure their continuing appropriateness and effectiveness. The review will take place in consultation with the Headteacher, staff and focus groups.