

Meopham School Homework Policy

Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education," – 1999 *White Paper, Excellence in Schools*.

By providing homework teachers are **supporting the learning of the students beyond the classroom**, in the hope that parents will be encouraged to become active partners in this process. It is a crucial element in raising the achievement of our students.

Homework supports the pupils' learning in the classroom, improves achievement and improves the study skills of students and therefore should form an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning from both curriculum leaders and the individual class teachers.

Aims and Purpose of Homework

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to become independent learners (an essential life skill)
- To consolidate and develop work covered in curriculum lessons by reinforcing skills and understanding and extending learning e.g. through additional reading and research
- To encourage pupils to develop their time management skills
- To provide feedback in the evaluation of learning and teaching
- To provide parents with the opportunity to share in their child's learning and engage them in the cooperation and support that is needed for their child's academic development
- To give pupils the opportunity to demonstrate progress through fulfilling, (and in some cases exceeding), the expectations of themselves, their teachers and their parents

Nature of Homework

- **It is important** that homework is clearly related to the subject or area of the curriculum that the pupils are **currently working** on in classroom lessons.
- Homework should involve a range of activities that develop different skills to ensure students remain motivated to complete it.
- Homework needs to be clearly differentiated to ensure that all students are challenged and encouraged to reach their maximum potential

- Homework should be set once a week and completed by the pupils on the night indicated by their homework timetable.
- Homework should be manageable as, overburdening pupils with work at home could become counterproductive.

Types of Homework

Homework can be:

- Reinforcement of class work
- Research projects and investigations
- Preparation for classwork
- Reading
- Drawing or using other creative skills
- Preparation for a presentation
- Learning vocabulary, key concepts and key words
- Revision for upcoming tests
- Completion of course work assignments
- Completing unfinished class work should be avoided as a form of homework

Marking and Feedback

The school's marking policy of What Went Well (WWW) and Even Better If (EBI) should be used when assessing the pupils' homework. However, a variety of methods of assessment or feedback can be used as and when they are appropriate:

- Self-assessment – pupils mark work themselves in a controlled situation
- Peer-assessment – work is marked by another pupil or a small group of pupils
- Teacher assessment – the teacher marks the work and gives written or verbal feedback

Rewards

High quality homework and pupils that demonstrate a good work ethos at home should be sensitively praised in class. House points should always be awarded for excellent homework or where there is evidence that a lot of time and effort has been spent on the work.

Each curriculum area should have their own rewards system and criteria for commending homework.

Sanctions

If homework is not handed in it will be recorded by the class teacher on SIMS as an after school homework detention. These will be recorded on the pupil's permanent record.

Parents will be notified by a letter/e-mail or phone call, advising them of the date their child will be in the homework detention.

Continual offenders will be dealt with by the curriculum leaders.

Individual Responsibilities

School

It will be the job of the curriculum leaders to ensure that all members of their department are regularly setting appropriate homework and marking it effectively.

Class Teacher

The class teacher is in charge of setting appropriate homework and ensuring that the nature of the tasks is acceptable.

They should:

- Set homework regularly
- Give clear and comprehensive instructions
- Set realistic deadlines for the work and ensure that these are met
- Be available for help and support
- Mark all homework in the correct way and provide constructive feedback
- Record after school homework detentions on SIMS as soon as possible

Pupil

Students need to ensure they:

- Listen to and note down all instructions relating to the homework that is given in class
- Record the deadline for the work clearly in their exercise books
- Attempt all work to the best of their ability
- Seek help if they come into difficulties
- Use feedback from the teacher to improve their work
- Use SIMS Student APP to become more organised and to submit homework on time

Parents/Carers

The role of the parent is crucial to ensure that pupils are reaching their full potential with their homework. Parents/Carers can support the school by:

- Ensuring their child has a quiet place to complete their homework
- Making sure their child has both time to complete their homework and their own free time Ensuring that pupils' commitments outside of school allow time to complete homework
- Providing praise and positive feedback when homework is completed
- Communicating with the school about any problems that their child may be having in regards to the homework
- Engage with SIMS Parent APP to ensure their child completes all homework on time

Reviewing of the Policy

The policy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

DATE of POLICY: September 2018

REVIEW: September 2019