





Homeworking Policy 2021

Last Reviewed:	January 2021	Next Review:	January 2023
Review Period	2 yearly		
Reviewed by:	C&P Committee		
Mr P A Ramsey Headteacher		Mr J Acton Chair of Governors:	

VERULAM SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Verulam School believes that homework contributes powerfully to the academic achievement of students, helping them progress to the full extent of their abilities and adapt to the world beyond school.

Homework:

- Plays a valuable part in education
- Allows for practising, extending and consolidating learning which has taken place in class
- Provides training for students in planning and organising time
- Develops a range of skills in identifying and using information resources
- Establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives, and especially in further or higher education
- Encourages independence in learning
- Provides parents and carers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children
- Challenges and extends gifted and talented children
- Supports children with special learning needs

Homework is most beneficial when:

- It reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates skills and knowledge
- It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has adverse effects on the student's motivation
- Students take responsibility for their homework, supported by parents and carers
- It is well coordinated and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- Teachers set suitable amounts of homework which are varied and at an appropriate level considering the age, key stage and capabilities of the students
- A variety of activities are included
- Feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to students
- It develops skills of inquiry, thinking and independent study

Types of homework set at Verulam and found to be most effective are:

Practice exercises – providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercises e.g. maths learning of procedures and Modern Foreign Languages learning of vocabulary or practice of phrases
- Practising for mastery e.g. spelling words
- Revising information about a current topic
- Reading for pleasure
- Essay writing
- Practice of exam technique
- Project based work
- Book Polishing homelearning

Preparatory homework – providing opportunities for students to gain background information on a topic of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons or contribute to a longer assignment including:

- Background reading
- Reading a text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit of work
- Undertaking small parts of a longer piece of assessed work
- Watching an explanatory video in preparation for a new topic

Extension assignments – encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Writing e.g. a book review
- Making or designing something
- Investigations and research
- Monitoring current events
- Completing challenge tasks such as UKMT papers in maths

Homework should recognise the place of information technology in today's world, but should have regard for equity issues. Students who do not have access to IT should not be disadvantaged.

Expectations

Role of parents:

- Take an active interest in homework
- Ensure there is time set aside for homework
- Encourage and support students to complete homework
- Provide, where possible, a dedicated place and desk for homework and study, without television
- Encourage their children to read and take an interest in current events
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing the planner and other documents if requested
- Communicating with teachers any concerns about homework
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Role of teachers:

- Explaining to students the purpose of homework
- Provide quality homework activities related to classwork and exam practice

- Following school procedure for the setting of homework
- Ensuring that students are aware of what is expected of them
- Giving students sufficient time to complete homework
- Alerting parents and carers of concerns and suggesting strategies to help children with homework

Role of managers:

- Ensuring that parents and carers are aware of the school's homework policy
- Monitoring the setting and quality of homework

Role of pupils:

- Being aware of the importance of homework
- Completing homework by the deadline
- Producing good quality homework which meets the school's presentation policy
- Seeking assistance from teachers when difficulties arise
- Giving homework a high priority in allocating their time.

The organisation of homework:

1. All homework is set via Google Classroom and Show My Homework
2. Homework could be set early in the lesson but not later than 10 minutes from the end –it will usually be on-line
3. The teacher's expectation relating to quality, length etc should be communicated to the students
4. Show my homework / google classroom should be checked to monitor the setting of homework.
5. Faculties are required to ensure that homework receives due recognition through an appropriate form of follow-up e.g. testing, discussion, marking etc.
6. All aspects of homework will be checked by Heads of Subject or Faculty half-termly
7. Faculties should plan homework at the start of a half-term, including to what extent it will be marked or assessed in detail.
8. Time allocations:
It is difficult to establish precise weekly timings for homework; this depends upon age, ability and the nature of work set. A set KS3 homework timetable is set each year.
9. Failure to complete homework. This will be dealt with by the subject teacher and Faculty Head. The school's reward and sanctions procedures will be used. Persistent offenders will attend school or Senior Leadership Team detentions.
10. Monitoring and Review
This will be carried out in accordance with the monitoring, evaluation and review processes undertaken by the school.

Parallel Study

Parallel study is a third stream of work for students which is neither class work or homework. It is used in a variety of ways throughout the school to extend pupils' knowledge and skills and in the higher years to help them prepare for examinations. Parallel study is entirely voluntary and the work completed is not marked. However, pupils will be encouraged to complete parallel study tasks by teachers.

In the Sixth Form all courses have full parallel study courses for enrichment, preview and review which are published at the beginning of the course.