



Gosfield School

Homework Policy – Whole School

Aim

The aim of homework at Gosfield School is to support the curriculum and develop pupil achievement and progress.

Purpose

The purpose of homework is

- To reinforce, support and help in the understanding of work covered in class
- To enable completion of courses in sufficient depth and breadth
- To develop independent study skills, including research and revision
- To enable pupils to establish a routine for study

Prep Homework

Homework in the Prep School is appropriate for the age and development of the pupils. Prep pupils are expected to read at home every day and weekly homework for English (including spellings) and Maths (including number bonds and times tables) is introduced from Year 1. Additional homework may be set during the holiday periods. As pupils progress through the Prep School, topic-related research, science and modern languages homework are added to the routine. The number of pieces set increases gradually to prepare older Prep pupils for Senior homework. When homework is set, time is allowed for it to be completed, either during the week or over the weekend, to ensure all pupils have adequate time for completion.

Senior Homework

A maximum of four pieces of homework are set on any one day. Homework timetables are produced at the start of the academic year by the Assistant Principal Academic for Senior School pupils in Years 7 - 9. These are written into student planners and published on the website. Due to the nature of studies for exam classes, Homework Timetables are not produced for students in Years 10 and above, but regular homework should be set.

Subject teachers set homework following this timetable:

Year 7 20 – 30 minutes each piece

Year 8 25 – 35 minutes each piece

Year 9 30 – 40 minutes each piece

Year 10 40 – 45 minutes each piece

Year 11 45 – 50 minutes each piece

6th Form Students typically have 2 or 3 study periods for each subject taken and 3 hours of additional homework per subject as a minimum. In addition, pupils are expected to undertake personal research to support their studies.

Homework may be set to be completed during the holiday periods.

Differentiation

In both the Prep and Senior Schools, the nature of homework will vary between year groups, classes and topics of study. The homework set by the teacher will be differentiated to reflect the ability of the pupils.

Marking

Marking homework is an integral part of assessment. Teachers mark work according to the School and departmental Marking and Assessment Policies.

Homework Responsibilities

Pupils

- Prep pupils write down their homework when requested to do so in their planners. Senior pupils have their homework published on Show My Homework.
- Ask if they have not understood the homework set
- Ensure they have everything they need to do their homework before starting
- Ensure homework is completed and presented to the best of their abilities following the guidance provided.

School

- Aspires to provide clear instructions for homework and ensure that all pupils have plenty of time to copy down work set or are given printed/online instructions
- Provides Senior parents and pupils with access to Show my Homework, an online communication and tracking tool for homework. Pupils have an individual login which allows them to access the homework set by their teachers. They can completed work online and use the website to help them organise their time
- Provides a homework timetable to support pupils' planning in advance
- Aspires to provide clear instructions for homework
- Marks homework regularly and in line with the school Marking and Assessment Policies
- Requires Tutors/Form Teachers/Class Teachers to check the planners at least weekly to ensure they are completed correctly
- Communicates to pupils and parents any concerns regarding the completion and quality of pupils' homework.

Parents/Guardians

- Encourage pupils to record homework in their planner
- Check SMHW/pupils' planners/reading records each day to check what has been set and done
- Sign planners/reading records each week; there is space for signature and comments
- Ask to see a selection of the work carried out and discuss it with pupils
- Inform the Tutor/Form Teacher/Class Teacher if work seems particularly good or would benefit from improvement
- Help pupils organise their time to best advantage
- Ensure pupils have suitable working conditions at home to carry out their homework
- Let the school know if pupils are spending too much or too little time on their homework
- Let the school know if pupils are finding the work too easy or too difficult
- Let the school know if a pupil is ill or otherwise unable to complete homework set.

Homework Standards

It is expected that homework is carried out to the best of a pupil's ability and is handed in on time. We ask our parents to support this expectation. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates all pupils receiving their marked work back swiftly.

Homework meeting appropriate standards will be celebrated with positive marks, comments and often merits.

Homework not handed in or not to an appropriate standard will result in further action:

- The teacher will discuss the situation with the pupil to ascertain the reasons for the work not being completed

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- The pupil may well be given a second chance when homework is normally completed to a high standard and on time
- Prep pupils may be required to complete the work at break time
- Senior pupils may be required to complete the work in lunchtime, departmental or, if problems persist, after school detentions
- The Tutor/Class Teacher will be informed should the lack or standard of homework become a regular issue and parents will be informed through a note in the planner by the subject teacher in the first instance. The Rewards and Sanctions Policy will be followed.
- Continued problems with homework will result in the Tutor/Form/Class Teacher contacting the parents so that further strategies in line with the whole school Code of Conduct can be agreed.