



HOMework

Reviewed by Governors January 2012

POLICY STATEMENT

A framework to further pupils' progress and attainment.

Inter-related Policies:

Marking

Learning and Teaching policy (Ofsted Criteria, Teaching and Assessment)

Assessment, recording and reporting

Equal Opportunities

Gifted and talented

Rationale

At Cumberland School we believe that homework is important, not an optional extra but an essential part of a good education. There is clear evidence that it helps pupils reach higher standards. Homework is therefore set and marked on a regular basis.

- i) The policy relates to all pupils at Cumberland School and recognises that homework is important at all stages in a child's education.
- ii) This policy will not include the amount of homework that should be set or the frequency. These details can be found in department handbooks.

Policy Aims and Objectives

- To provide a carefully planned and structured homework to support progression in learning as part of schools' schemes of work.
- To support consistent practice across the school in setting, managing and marking homework.
- To ensure a regular programme of homework so that teachers, pupils and parents understand the expectation upon them.
- To foster and maintain the active involvement of parents as partners in their pupil's learning.
- To expect high standards from pupils in completing homework.
- To provide feedback on pupils' work in accordance with the marking policy.
- To regularly monitor and evaluate the implementation of the homework policy.

Expectations

Homework should

- Encourage independent learning and self discipline
- Consolidate and reinforce skills
- Give opportunities for practice – "learning by doing"
- Develop pupils' research skills
- Enable pupils to attempt tasks not possible in the classroom situation
- Allow pupils time to complete coursework assignments
- Include a wide range of activities
- Engage and motivate pupils
- Appropriate homework tasks require clarification by each department (see individual department homework policies)

Roles and responsibilities

Setting, marking and monitoring homework regularly, in keeping with the school's policy is the responsibility of all teachers. Parents, governors, support staff and other agencies will be involved in the implementation, development and review of this policy.

Curriculum Line Managers will monitor that homework is set, regularly marked and standardised by attending department meetings (1 per term).

Teachers in Charge will

- ensure that appropriate homework tasks are clearly identified in departmental documentation
- ensure that the homework set is consistent and manageable.
- monitor the completion of homework
- review the appropriateness of key stage 4 homework set and key stage 3 independent learning tasks (ILTs) set.

Subject teachers must

- ensure that homework is set according to **subject guidelines/ Department Policy**
- give appropriate feedback on pupils' homework in accordance with the marking policy.

Pupils will

- complete all homework set to the best of their ability
- record homework in the planner they are provided with.

Form tutors will

- monitor and should sign homework planners weekly. These will also be monitored by HOY and AH as part of registration monitoring.
- feedback at pastoral meetings where homework monitoring/ causes for concern will be discussed, minuted and followed up accordingly.

Parents

- are encouraged to help in monitoring homework by signing planners weekly and are also asked to provide feedback on levels of homework when/if they become a concern by contacting the form tutor either through the planner or by calling the school and
- should make every effort to support their children's learning at home.

Support for Homework

- Study facilities are available in the Library. In addition, homework club and subject specific study support for pupils in KS3 and KS4 are run before school, at lunchtime and after school to provide pupils with support and/or extra resources.
- The annual Year 7 parent settling in evening will provide parents with practical tips as to how to support their children with their homework.
- Fronter provides additional resources via the VLE for each subject to support pupils and parents completing homework in the home.
- An E-learning administrative post has been created to support teachers, tics and pupils in accessing the ILTs electronically.

Homework Timetable

This policy recognises that a rigid homework timetable doesn't work for a variety of reasons including:

- The needs of each subject are different – ie languages may prefer short, frequent homework whereas a subject like English may wish to set longer essay style pieces.
- The homework timetable doesn't always fit with the teaching timetable.
- Staff are absent on the day homework should be set.
- Setting homework just because the homework timetable says so, is of little value.

From September 2011:

- The majority of the foundation subjects in Key Stage 3 will pilot a project based homework cycle to promote independent, applied learning. MFL, Maths, English and Science, will continue to set weekly homework.
- Key Stage 4 homework will be set by subject teachers in the same way as it is now to consolidate/ extend classroom learning eg course work completion and revision tasks depending on the demands of the course.
- Homework set will be meaningful and help pupils progress their learning.
- All homework will be assessed – this may be done in a variety of ways including, teaching marking, peer assessment, reporting back verbally/presentation, tests in line with the Marking policy.
- Pupils who complete homework will be recognised through the VIVO reward system as opposed to sanctions for failure to complete homework.
- Teachers will record the completion and standard of homework in teacher planners.