

Le Rocquier Homework Policy



Le Rocquier School

RATIONALE

Work done at home can make a significant contribution to a pupil's progress at school and therefore it should be an integral part of the education process. Homework can be used to extend learning, consolidate learning from lessons and challenge pupils beyond the classroom experience. It also provides an opportunity for parental engagement between pupil and school. Students who complete homework regularly in Key Stage 3 learn the skills needed for completion of homework and revision that are necessary for Key Stage 4. This policy has been written in line with UK government and exam board advice. (See appendix 1.) The policy relies on Satchel being at the heart of our homework setting and monitoring.

AIMS

The purpose of homework:

- To develop and consolidate the skills needed for effective independent study. This is important for pupils' life-long learning and adaptability.
- To prepare for the next lesson's content.
- To build confidence and, in turn, motivate students as their understanding develops.
- To manage particular curriculum and course demands such as coursework.
- To provide opportunities for extension work that may not be possible within a busy curriculum.

TIME ALLOCATION FOR HOMEWORK

The following time allocations should be flexible, depending on a particular pupil's circumstances and needs. The following times are an approximation for 'normal' weeks. In the build up to exams homework expectations may be higher due to revision.

Year	Subjects	Recommended time per day
7	Following the first term, homework will be set for the following: English, Maths, Science, French: once per week. History, Geography, RS, D&T, Art and Computing: once every 3 weeks. Performing Arts and Drama: once every half term. Homework will not be set for PE or PSHE.	On average, up to 60 mins.
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9	Homework will be set for the following: English, Maths, Science, French: once per week. History, Geography, RS, D&T, Art and Computing: once every 3 weeks. Music, Dance and Drama: once every half term. Homework will not be set for PE, PSHE or Spanish.	On average, up to 90 mins
10	Homework will be set for English, Maths, Science and the four option subjects chosen for Key Stage 4. Homework will not be set for Core PE, PSHE or Learning Support.	On average, up to 120 mins (including going to support or revision sessions)
11	Homework will be set for English, Maths, Science and the four option subjects chosen for Key Stage 4. Homework will not be set for Core PE, PSHE or Learning Support.	On average, up to 150 mins (including going to support or revision sessions)

Students will have at least a week to complete homework tasks. In exceptional cases, the minimum a student should have is three days to complete a short task. This allows students to plan their time carefully.

Students are expected to check the details of the homework in Satchel along with the due date of assignments. This information will also be available to parents through Satchel in the 'to do' section. Using the 'to do' list will help prioritise work to be completed by the correct deadline.

Each homework task in Key Stage 3 should take no longer than 30 minutes. If it takes longer than this, students should see their teacher for support rather than spending too long on a task. Sometimes pupils are given an activity to complete over several weeks. Pupils will need help in managing their time to ensure that the task is given the necessary time allocated. Homework in Key Stage 4 is likely to take longer. Subjects can set up to 1.5 hours a week (3 hours for Science and English as they are worth 2 GCSE grades).

Work that is completed to a poor standard will be returned to students to complete again or improve.

Holidays

Students, like staff, need their holidays to relax, recuperate and recharge. **Homework setting over the holidays is not encouraged**, however there may be occasions when additional work is necessary; especially at KS4. As always, any work set should be purposeful: ideally a reading or preparation task rather than a written exercise.

In Years 7 and 8, if staff wish to set homework, it should be one task that takes a maximum of half an hour or revision.

In Year 9, if staff wish to set homework, it should be one task that takes a maximum of 45 mins or revision.

In Years 10 and 11 half term holidays should only be used for revision and consolidation exercises for assessments after the half term. For full holidays (Christmas, Easter and Summer) it should be one task that takes a maximum of 45 mins or revision.

Expectations of Pupils

- Pupils are expected to check Satchel daily for each subject and note the due date of the work set. They should use the 'to do' list to help prioritise their work.
- Pupils are expected to attempt all homework set to the best of their ability.
- Pupils should not rush their homework and should try to complete it in a peaceful working environment.
- Pupils are expected to show parents or carers the homework they have completed.
- Pupils should seek help when they are not sure what to do – from a parent or carer and/or subject teacher.

Expectations of Staff

- Subject Teachers will ensure that homework tasks are explained well during the lesson, giving necessary details in Satchel and checking that pupils understand what they have to do.
- Subject teachers will monitor homework completion and quality, and mark completed work in line with the school's 'Marking and Feedback' policy. Work handed in should be marked as submitted in Satchel.
- Subject teachers will record homework tasks in Satchel so that parents and students can access the instructions and any resources required.
- Subject teachers will reward students completing homework in a timely fashion and to a good standard using the whole school rewards system.

- Subject teachers will record behaviour points for students not completing homework in a timely fashion or to a good quality.
- Subject teachers will contact home for those students consistently failing to meet homework expectations.
- Subject Leaders will monitor the setting of appropriate homework tasks within their subject. They, in turn, will feed back to Faculty Leaders.
- Faculty Leaders will raise concerns about a pattern in poor quality or non-completion of homework tasks to heads of year.

Expectations of Parents and Carers:

Please see 'top tips' in appendix 2 for more detail.)

We ask parents and carers to support their child with homework by:

- Providing a suitable, peaceful place to work.
- Downloading the Satchel App so that they can monitor their child's completion of tasks.
- Encouraging pupils to attend the Homework Club in Key Stage 3 Support if they are struggling.
- Showing their child that homework is valued.
- Discussing their child's work with him or her.
- Helping their child to research answers using the internet or a teacher's resources if they are struggling.
- Encouraging and praising their child for completing homework well.
- Expecting and checking that deadlines are met.
- Letting staff know if a student has not been able to complete homework for a specific reason.
- Checking that work is not rushed, is completed with accuracy and to the best of the child's ability.

Appendix 1:

The government has set the following guidelines for secondary school children:

- Years 7 and 8: 45 to 90 minutes per day
- Year 9: 1 to 2 hours per day
- Years 10 and 11: 1.5 to 2.5 hours per day

Appendix 2:

Top tips for secondary school homework

- Keep a designated homework area at home. Somewhere preferably where you have a flat surface, paper and pens readily available. Make sure any distractions are avoided e.g. turn off the television.
- Check in regularly as your child completes homework to make sure they aren't stuck and to check they have remained on task – especially when using an electronic device to complete work.
- Help keep a routine for your child when it comes to homework. You might find your child wants to complete their homework as soon as they come home from school or they might want to relax and then start working later in the evening. Let your child decide when they want to do their homework but try and keep a regular time each day.
- Praise and encourage your child to help boost their confidence. Try to pick up on how they have completed certain tasks for example, "I like the way you worked that out..." as opposed to "Well done".
- Ask your child to give you a bit of background on the homework and why they have been set the piece. This should open up discussion and help their enthusiasm.

- However tempting it may be, refrain from completing your child's homework for them. Homework is set to help teachers understand how much your child has understood about the subject and what they can complete independently.
- Stay calm. It might become frustrating if you are trying to teach your child something and they do not seem to be grasping the concept but remember losing your patience will knock their self-esteem and could also prevent them coming to you for help in the future.
- Allow yourself enough time to help your child with their homework. Constantly looking at the clock could discourage them and rushing to complete work against the clock will not result in your child's best piece of work.
- Use the library. Staff at your local library will be able to help your child find the info he/she needs and develop their research skills. Many libraries offer free internet access for homework and can advise on links to useful homework websites.
- Many schools offer after-school homework clubs. These are a great way of getting the homework out of the way and getting help and advice on the best way to tackle it.
- Encourage your child by offering a small reward that they can choose at the end of the week if all their set homework is done. It doesn't have to be money or sweets - maybe a favourite film, or offering to play a game or do something with them that they always enjoy. Aim if possible for them to have at least one homework-free day a week.
- The amount of homework gradually increases as your child goes through school. Help your child adapt by helping them plan their time and workload carefully.
- Don't get stressed out by homework - if you are, your child will be too. Remember to talk to the school if you feel your child has too much homework, or it's not clear, or is taking them too long. Asking for feedback on how they feel your child is doing is also helpful.

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