



FOREST HILL SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

*July 2015
Last updated November 2019
Review every 3 years*

Introduction

Homework Policy for Key Stage 3 (Year groups 7, 8 & 9) & Key Stage 4 (Year groups 10 & 11)

For the quality of pupils' learning and progress to be outstanding they need the skills of excellent concentration "even in extended periods without direction from an adult" (Ofsted January 2010).

Homework has a key role to play in developing these skills and, as it has long been recognised "*the importance of homework to educational achievement cannot be denied*" (ISS 1984). If students receive appropriate homework and complete it on a regular basis over a four year period, they will in effect be receiving the equivalent of at least one additional year of full-time education (HMI report). Forest Hill is committed to the use of homework as part of the curriculum offer.

To be effective, homework needs to be regularly set. It needs to be varied in the range and nature of the task set so that it can be accessible and challenging to all.

Purpose of homework

Homework is set to:

- Extend and consolidate the learning in the classroom
- Encourage and develop independent study by developing self-discipline, responsibility and motivation
- Encourage and develop organisational skills such as time management and planning skills
- Develop the revision skills necessary for exam success
- Undertake activities not possible in the classroom
- Prepare for future learning in the classroom
- Engage and involve parents and carers in their son's education

Principles

- Homework should be an integral part of curriculum delivery and as such should be planned for in a way which makes it meaningful and valuable
- Homework must have a clear purpose
- Students need to be adequately prepared for homework tasks by the teacher
- Students must always receive feedback on their homework in some form such as teacher feedback, peer assessment, self-assessment, on-line marking or exam marks

Subject teachers will:

- Set homework in strict accordance with the school homework schedule
- Plan meaningful homework that is integral to curriculum planning and will consolidate or extend learning

- Prepare and explain the homework so that students are aware of what they need to do
- Ensure that students always receive feedback in some form on their homework. This could be through direct teacher feedback, peer assessment, self-assessment, on-line marking of quizzes or through exam marks for revision homeworks. How students will receive feedback, needs to be made clear to them.
- Teachers must always ensure that homework has been completed by students even if they are not directly marking that particular homework. Parents should be notified when homework is not handed in on time, usually via Show My Homework.
- Teachers should praise homework completion and effort and when homework has not been submitted, address this issue.
- Homework must always be entered onto Show My Homework.
- Project based homework or homework that needs to be completed in Hand-in, still needs to be recorded in Show My Homework on a weekly basis, with links as necessary.

Faculty Leaders

- Ensure that teachers do set homework and provide feedback in accordance with the policy.
- Ensure that teachers record whether homework is completed or not.

Students will:

- Take home all resources and materials required to support the completion of homework.
- Complete all homework tasks to the best of their ability.
- Hand in their work, completed and on time.
- Check Show My Homework on a daily basis.

Senior Leadership Team will:

- Monitor the consistency and quality of homework setting.
- Challenge and address poor performance around homework setting.
- Support students in the completion of homework by providing appropriate resources, a suitable environment and adult support via the school library and the homework club.

Parents are asked to:

- Check Show My Homework and ensure that their sons are completing homework to the best of their ability.
- Check through the homework.
- Raise any concerns with the relevant staff.
- Where possible, provide a quiet space for students to study at home.

Students who fail to complete homework may receive teacher or subject based sanctions as deemed appropriate by the teacher. Staff may consider it necessary to request parents to attend a meeting with the subject teacher, Tutor or Head of Year to discuss significant ongoing concerns.

Types of homework that may be set:

- Revising and preparing for examinations
- Written tasks
- Numerical tasks
- On-line activities such as MyMaths or quizzes
- Model making
- Research tasks
- Longer project work
- Visiting a location or finding out about a particular area

Additional Advice**Teachers:**

- Teachers should allow a week for homework completion in Years 7, 8 and 9 and at least 3 or 4 days in Years 10 and 11.
- Teachers should establish a consistent routine, setting homework on the same day each week and collecting it in or checking completion on the same day each week.
- Teachers should expect that in Year 7 homework should take a minimum of 30 minutes. This should increase in subsequent year groups. By Year 11, homework should include the expectation that students are doing independent exam preparation in addition to the specific homework task.

See following page for the Homework Schedule

Homework Schedule

Key Stage 3	Number of Homework(s) per week in Years 7, 8 & 9		
Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
ENGLISH	two*	two*	two*
MATHS	one	one	one
SCIENCE	one	one	one
HISTORY	one	one	one
GEOGRAPHY	fortnightly	one	one
MODERN LANGUAGES	one	one	one
RE	fortnightly	fortnightly	fortnightly
COMPUTER STUDIES	fortnightly	fortnightly	fortnightly
ART and D&T	two per half term	two per half term**	two per half term**
PE, Dance, Music and Drama do not routinely set homework at KS3.			
*In Years 7, 8 & 9 one of the English homework pieces will be a reading homework.			
In Years 7 & 8 the reading homework will be set in the library lesson.			
**Art rotates with D&T and the homeworks are research and project-based and designed to be on-going.			

Key Stage 4	Number of Homework(s) per week in Years 10 & 11	
Subject	Year 10	Year 11
ENGLISH	one	one
MATHS	one	one
COMBINED SCIENCE	two*	two*
BIOLOGY	one	one
CHEMISTRY	one	one
PHYSICS	one	one
RE	one	one
All Option Subjects	one	one
Core PE do not routinely set homework.		
Combined Science : two* - one homework a week from each teacher.		
It may be that some teachers will set additional homework tasks, for example - a learning vocabulary homework in MFL, or a reading homework in English.		