



Homework Policy September 2019

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Ratified by Governors



Learn more... Do more... Be more...

1 Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education."

1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools

- 1.1 Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.
- 1.2 We see work completed outside of lesson time as a valuable part of students' learning. It is important in raising student achievement and does make a significant difference to how well individual students succeed at school.
- 1.3 Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school.
- 1.4 Homework develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

2 Introduction

- 2.1 To support the partnership between students, parents and school, Priestlands School uses the Show My Homework website to publish all homework. This can be accessed from a quick link on the Priestlands School website homepage and an App can also be downloaded for individual student and parent devices. The school provides individual login details to all students and their parents in order that specific information relating to issued homework and deadlines is readily available.
- 2.2 The information below aims to provide you with key information about the school's Homework Policy. We hope it will answer any questions you may have about the homework that the students will be issued with at Priestlands School.

3 Aims

- 3.1 Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that children will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. We hope that parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work completed at home is done so conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.
- 3.2 Homework enables students to:
 - consolidate, practice, finish, supplement or extend work done in class
 - access resources not available in the classroom.
 - extend learning across the curriculum e.g. through additional reading
 - develop research and revision skills.
 - prepare for school assessments and examinations
 - develop the habit of working independently
 - collaborate with others
 - show progress and understanding.
 - provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
 - enhance their study skills e.g. organisational skills, time management and self-discipline.
 - take ownership and responsibility for learning.
 - engage parental co-operation and support.



- create channels for home school dialogue.

4 What form might the homework take?

- 4.1 Homework can take various forms and the type of homework will vary from subject to subject. Some of the tasks given may include:

Independent Reading Log	20 Question Skills	Home Study Projects	Formulae Learning	D.I.R.T (Directed, Improvement and Reflective Time)
Retrieval Practice	Projects	Vocabulary Practice	Research Tasks	Independent Topics
Attending after-school sports clubs	Self-testing for weekly Recall Test	Instrumental Practise	Timed written responses	Weigh and measure ingredients
Key Word revision	Designing Knowledge Organisers	Therapy Wall Activities	Practice Exam Questions	Flipped Learning Activities

- 4.2 In Years 7 and 8, homework tasks should take about 30 minutes each.
- 4.3 In Year 9, homework tasks should take up to 40 minutes each.
- 4.4 In Years 10 and 11, homework tasks could take up to an hour.
- 4.5 Those subjects with 2 homeworks per week may combine them into one longer homework, but students will then be given a full week for completion.

5 Exceptions to the Homework Timetable

- 5.1 Homework tasks will not be set in all subjects.
- 5.2 Exceptions in Y7, Y8 and Y9 will be as follows:
- Drama: homework tasks will not be set
 - Technology: Because the taught curriculum is already project-based, a series of support tasks will be set.
 - In ICT, homework tasks are unlikely to be set. Students will know what tasks they need to complete in class each week and, rather than set homework, students will be invited to attend after-school clinics to catch up or improve work. An optional "challenge" homework will be set each half term.

6 Pressures on setting homework

- 6.1 No homework other than revision will be set in the two weeks prior to the start of the Year 10 exams and Year 11 mock exams or during those exams.
- 6.2 There is no normal expectation that extra holiday work will be set during Key Stage 3. The situation in Key Stage 4 is quite different and holiday work will be set according to need.

7 Incentives



- 7.1 High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.
- 7.2 Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Achievement points or Prom Points may all be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a postcard may be sent home.
- 7.3 Staff should also look for opportunities to send students to see another teacher, the Head of Department, Senior Team members or the Headteacher where students would benefit from special praise or attention.

8 Sanctions

NB: Before using “formal” sanctions, teachers may wish to consider offering informal support by inviting students to attend an after-school support clinic or workshop.

- 8.1 When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the student’s needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used. Teachers will receive support from their Head of Department and Senior Staff.
 - (a) Class teacher: discussion and negotiation with student, imposition, informing parents.
 - (b) Head of Department: discussion and negotiation with referred student, imposition, informing parents; letter to parents and detention if necessary.
 - (c) Head of Year: discusses and negotiates with referred student, applies sanction or support where appropriate; refers student to SENCo or reports to Senior Team line manager in the case of a persistent offender.

9 Responsibilities

9.1 The role of the student

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To regularly track and monitor homework set via ‘Show my Homework’ app or website.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties and seek help where needed.
- To take note of teacher feedback in order to improve their work.

9.2 The role of the Form Tutor

- To include homework in student mentoring where appropriate.
- To monitor that homework is being completed to the standard expected of the student
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

9.3 The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken. The teacher will:

- Set homework according to the timetable.
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework where appropriate
- Provide help and support.
- Accommodate any specific individual needs
- Inform the Department Head and Curriculum Leader, Tutor and Head of Year when problems arise.



9.4 The role of PSMs

- To provide after school and lunchtime opportunities for independent study.

9.5 The role of the Head of Department

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
- To support staff, students and parents.
- To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area.

9.6 The role of the Senior Team

- To provide staff, students and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school.
- To review annually the school homework policy.
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy.

9.7 The role of the Parents

Parents play a vital role in the education of their child, therefore it is important and valuable to have a good home-school partnership, of which a homework policy must address.

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents can assist by:

- Regularly tracking and monitoring homework using parental login on the 'Show My Homework' app or website
 - Showing that they value homework and supporting the school in explaining how it can help students to progress.
 - Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
 - Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
 - Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done: a student's leisure time is important, too!
 - Ensuring that outside clubs do not reduce the quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
 - Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
 - Encouraging students and praising them when homework is completed.
 - Providing the school with information about any problems through the SRB (Student Record Book) or by contacting the school directly.

10 Monitoring and Evaluation

1) Responsibilities

(a) Students

Student Record Books (SRBs) will be checked by:

- The form tutor (stamped weekly)
- The Head of Year (sampled every few weeks)
- Member of the Senior Team (sampled half-termly)

(b) Subject Staff

- Will keep a record of Additional Homework Tasks as part of lesson plans.
- Make the record available to the Head of Department and Curriculum Leader.

(c) Heads of Department

- Will sample homework records via SMH (every few weeks).
- Will provide opportunities for subject teachers to moderate homework and ensure consistency of expectation and marking.



- Will look at examples of Additional Homework Tasks and talk to students and staff according to monitoring programme using homework evaluation criteria (see (e) below).

(d) Heads of Year

- Will sample SRBs (every few weeks).
- Will look at effectiveness of homework across the year group and talk to students using homework evaluation criteria (see (e) below).

(e) Senior Team

- Will sample homework records through subject and year team inspections.
- Will sample examples of work and talk to students according to monitoring programme.
- Will review school policy as required.

(f) Governors

- Curriculum and Student Well-being Committee will review the policy as required.
- Link governors will talk to staff and students about homework as part of their visits.

11 Review

- 11.1 This policy will be reviewed in July 2022 or in the light of new legislation or guidance or school self-evaluation data.

