

HOMework POLICY

Mission Statement

Our Maricourt family, with Christ at the centre, is a community of welcome, compassion and respect in which we are encouraged to discover our true purpose and empowered to achieve the extraordinary so as to be the change we want to see in our world.

INSPIRE
WITH
MARICOURT

Homework

In outstanding schools it is expected that 'teachers set challenging homework, in line with the school's policy and as appropriate for the age and stage of pupils, that consolidates learning, deepens understanding and prepares pupils very well for work to come.' (Ofsted School Inspection Handbook, October 2017).

Homework is work that is set to be done outside of the timetabled curriculum. It contains elements of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Learning at home is an essential part of every pupil's education, it builds upon work done in the classroom and therefore enhances pupil learning. Homework develops study skills and is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into schemes of work and it must ensure that all pupils are challenged appropriately. All homework should be meaningful, purposeful and relevant with tasks that are designed to extend, consolidate and reinforce learning. It should enhance students' knowledge, understanding and skills.

At Maricourt a variety of homework tasks may be set. Homework may take the form of common tasks or it may be differentiated or personalised to suit the individual pupil. Pupils may be set research tasks or planning for work to be undertaken in class at a later date. Reading homeworks will also be set. Whatever the task, pupils are expected to complete all set homework to the best of their ability and to submit this on time.

Aims

Homework enables pupils to:

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- access resources not available in the classroom
- develop research skills
- work independently
- show progress and understanding
- provide feedback for teachers on teaching and the quality of learning
- enhance their study skills eg planning, time management and self-discipline
- take ownership of and responsibility for learning

Homework also:

- engages parental co-operation and support
- creates channels for home school dialogue

Allocated Homework:

Frequency of homework

Homework will be set after every third lesson in each subject.

A subject with 3 lessons weekly will issue weekly homework, whereas a subject with 1 lesson per week will issue homework every 3 weeks.

Every second homework will consist of a multiple choice “no stakes quiz” set via ShowMyHomework

Please note that subjects such as Dance, PE and Music will set homework if and when it is appropriate.

Sixth Form

Recommended homework/independent study hours in the sixth form will vary depending upon the subjects and qualifications. One hour per subject per night is the minimum time suggested; this should include background reading and independent research which reinforce topics studied that day.

These homework timetables will be collapsed one week before and during exam periods so that pupils can focus on revision.

Types of homework

A variety of homework will be set including:

- Written homework practicing skills from lesson
- Multiple choice quizzes
- Online resources (Centuty.tech, Memrise, Mathswatch)
- Research tasks

Responsibilities

The role of the pupil:

- To listen to homework instructions in class
- To check Show my homework daily
- 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
- To use learning resources in school if they are not available at home
- To collect homework from staff immediately on a return from absence or if a lesson is missed
- To ask for help in accessing Show My Homework if necessary

The role of the subject teacher:

- To set homework according to the timetable
- To give full and comprehensive instructions
- To record homework on Show My Homework
- To set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met
- To ensure that all homework is sufficiently challenging for all pupils
- To ensure that homework is assessed according to the school and departmental Assessment and Marking policy
- To mark formatively, giving pupils information on how they can improve their work according to the school and departmental Assessment and Marking Policy
- To use SIMS Lesson Monitor to record where a pupil has failed to complete homework
- To ensure that any pupil who fails to do homework in the first instance completes it at a later date and that appropriate sanctions are imposed

Although it is expected that subject teachers will follow up any homework that is missed, a disproportionate amount of time and effort should not be spent doing this. The completion of homework will be reported on in the 'Homework' column of the termly Progress Review. The quality of homework submitted forms part of the 'Effort' grade.

The role of the Curriculum Leader:

- To ensure that homework is being set according to the timetable by all teachers within the department
- To ensure that homework set is appropriate and challenges all pupils sufficiently
- To monitor and evaluate the homework policy within their curriculum area
- To support the subject teacher in enforcing the completion of homework by pupils

The role of Parents/Carers:

The role of the parent/carer is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing the value of homework through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach the academic standards of which they are capable. This should include:

- Discussing all homework with your child
- Providing the environment necessary for success; ideally, a quiet place to study where interruptions can be kept to a minimum
- Responding positively when your child asks for help; giving plenty of praise and encouragement
- Encouraging your child to complete homework at an appropriate time of the evening
- Monitoring Show My Homework for an overview of homework that is set

The Role of the Governors:

- To monitor the school homework policy

What happens if homework is not done?

If a piece of homework is not completed by a pupil, the subject teacher should give a Behaviour Point in SIMS Lesson Monitor by selecting 'Homework' from the list of behaviours. It is the responsibility of the subject teacher, with the support of the Curriculum Leader where necessary to ensure that appropriate sanctions are imposed and that the homework is completed by the pupil at a later date.

Recording this information on SIMS Lesson Monitor ensures that Progress Leaders are given an overview of all pupils within their year group who may be failing to complete homework in a variety of subjects.

Assessment of Homework

The importance of feedback given to pupils on the quality of their work cannot be underestimated. Constructive feedback tells pupils what they have done well and exactly what they need to do in order to improve. Homework should be marked promptly and regularly by staff (full details of the assessment and marking of all work, including homework can be found in the school's Assessment and Marking Policy).

A formal process of Assessment Monitoring is carried out at three points during the school year. This process judges the quality of assessment carried out by subject teachers on all work including homework. This is done by Curriculum Leaders in conjunction with the Senior Leadership link for the department.

Monitoring

A formal process of homework monitoring is undertaken by Curriculum Leaders periodically throughout the year. This process is designed to check that homework is being set on a regular basis, that it is appropriately challenging for all pupils and that pupils are completing all homework set.

An evaluation of the Curriculum Leader homework monitoring is then done by the senior leadership link for each department.

Progress Leaders monitor the homework records of all pupils in their year groups on an on-going basis and apply interventions as appropriate.

Additional guidance for teaching staff

Homework is an important tool in supporting both the progress of our students and developing the skills required to succeed with independent study.

What should homework consist of?

It is important that homework is well planned to practice skills/application of knowledge explained in lessons, consolidate learning or give opportunities to practice retrieval.

Homework should:

- Be high quality with well designed tasks linked to classroom learning
- Have clear aims communicated to students
- Form part of a well set out classroom routine
- Be communicated on Show My Homework

Retrieval practice

Every second homework will consist of a multiple choice “no stakes quiz” set via ShowMyHomework

Multiple choice, no stakes quizzes must:

- Contain a minimum of 15 questions
- Contain a mixture of fact recall and high order questions (application, analysis etc)
- Consist of prior *and* current content
- Challenge students in content (what is being tested) and approach (use of plausible distractors, use of memory plus application etc)