

Weatherhead High School

A high performing academy providing excellence for all

Homework Policy

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Homework Policy

2023 - 24

Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons. The evidence shows that the impact of homework, on average, is five months' additional progress. However, beneath this average there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how homework is set is likely to be very important.

There is some evidence that homework is most effective when used as a short and focused intervention (e.g. in the form of a project or specific target connected with a particular element of learning) with some exceptional studies showing up to eight additional months' positive impact on attainment. Benefits are likely to be more modest, up to two to three months' progress on average, if homework is more routinely set (e.g. learning vocabulary or completing practice tasks in mathematics every day).

Evidence also suggests that how homework relates to learning during normal school time is important. In the most effective examples homework was an integral part of learning, rather than an add-on. To maximise impact, it also appears to be important that students are provided with high quality feedback on their work (see Feedback).

Some studies indicate that there may be an optimum amount of homework of between one and two hours per school day (slightly longer for older pupils), with effects diminishing as the time that students spend on homework increases.

Education Endowment Foundation - Teaching and Learning Toolkit

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/evidence-summaries/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework-secondary/>

Purpose of Homework at Weatherhead:-

- To consolidate, reinforce and extend work covered in class.
- To practise skills and techniques learned in the classroom that may be specific for assessment in examinations.
- To address gaps in knowledge.
- To prepare for the next lesson.
- To allow students to prepare for quizzes and tests in the form of revision.
- To provide time for the completion of course work in GCSE and A Levels.
- To encourage students to develop their study skills and confidence to study independently.
- To involve the family in supporting student learning.

Homework Guidelines for Teachers

Appropriate Homework Tasks

1. Homework tasks set must be consistent across the curriculum. All students in all classes should receive the same type of homework.
2. All homework must be planned and focused. High quality, coordinated, interesting and well planned homework will support student achievement. Quality is more important than quantity.
3. Each subject should identify suitable learning activities that are linked to the Scheme of Work being taught and each department will have their own homework policy in addition to the guidance set out here.
4. Homework can be used as a tool for differentiating in a mixed attainment setting. Different outcomes can be used to challenge or to scaffold and support.
5. Homework tasks set must be realistic to ensure that students can complete the work in the allocated time.
6. Homework should be a specific task(s) and not to finish off classwork (this may be different for KS5 independent work).
7. Any revision homework must be tested through informal quizzing or formal assessments/tests.
8. Homework should follow a hybrid model of online/offline activities. It should be a variety of tasks using worksheets and activities that students complete in their exercise book. Every piece of homework should not be on an online platform. Subjects that set two pieces of homework per week may choose to have one as an 'online' and one as an 'offline' piece of work.
9. Any online activities, including self-marking platforms, must be checked by the class teacher and some form of feedback, such as whole-class feedback and praise, provided.
10. There should be evidence of homework in exercise books.

Communicating Homework Tasks

11. Class teachers must ensure that students record homework in their planners on all occasions. They should record the requirements of the task, the day it is due, how long it should take to complete and how long it actually took.
12. Please ensure that students have more than one day to complete their homework (no homework can be due the next day).
13. In Years 7, 8 and 9 no homework is to be set to complete over a holiday. This also applies to Year 11 following their mock examinations over the Christmas holidays.
14. At KS3, a homework timetable will be provided for each form group and staff must set their homework according to these timetables to ensure that homework is spread evenly throughout the week and to enable students to manage their time effectively.
15. Build time into your lesson planning to set and discuss homework so that it is not seen by students as a 'rushed activity' at the end of the lesson. It may be

appropriate to start homework tasks with students during a lesson; this will help to clarify what they need to do, help them to get started and stop them from worrying.

16. Students should be directed and encouraged to attend departmental and after school homework clubs if they require support in completing their homework.

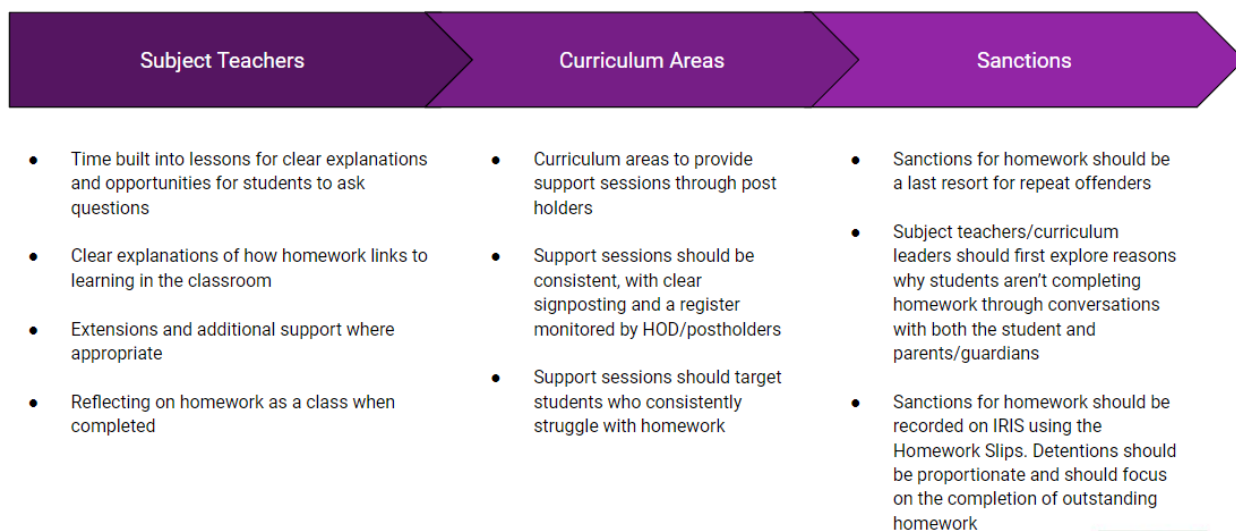
Marking & Feedback (see Marking/Feedback Policy for further guidelines)

17. Every homework piece must be submitted and students must receive specific and timely feedback on their work, including online work (see Feedback and Marking Policy).
18. When providing feedback and marking homework, staff must follow the guidance set out in the Feedback and Marking Policy.

Homework Engagement

19. The completion and submission of homework should be tracked and monitored by class teachers
20. Non completion of homework should be dealt with in the following ways:

Homework Support and Sanctions



21. Curriculum Coordinators/post holders should make homework a regular focus of quality assurance, and should maintain oversight of and respond to engagement with homework in their areas.

Length of Homework

22. The total time (not time for each subject) spent on homework should take into account age, ability and national guidelines for total time spent on homework each night.

- Year 7, 8 & 9: 60 minutes to 90 minutes per day
- Year 10 & 11: 90 minutes to 150 minutes per day

23. Sixth Form homework should reflect the need for students to work more independently on work that best matches the demands of the course studied. This must include independent work (50-50) in addition to the formal homework tasks

set. Independent work need not be formally marked like homework tasks but staff should follow department guidance on this.

Year 7/8/9:

	Frequency	Time
Maths	Once per week	60 minutes
English	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Science	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Spanish	Once per week	30 minutes
History	Once per week	30 minutes
Geography	Once per week	30 minutes

All remaining subjects do not set weekly homework but may set revision based homework prior to end of term tests and end of year exams.

Year 10/11:

	Frequency	Time
Maths	Twice per week	90 minutes total
English	Twice per week	90 minutes total
Double Science	Two or three times per week (depending on the number of teachers you have)	90 minutes total
Triple Science	Three times per week (once per separate subject)	Three at 45 minutes each
Spanish	Once per week	45 minutes
Option Subjects	Once per week	45 minutes

*These guidelines represent a minimum amount of homework for KS4

KS5:

- Year 12 – 5 hours per subject to include at least one formal homework assignment alongside independent work.
- Year 13 – 6 hours per subject to include at least one formal homework assignment alongside independent work.

Guidelines for Form Tutors

- Make sure students are aware of (and reminded regularly of):-
 - The purpose of homework.
 - The importance of homework - trying their best, submitting on time and not losing homework.
 - The need to record all homework in their planner with a due date (and for KS3 students to write how long it should take and how long it actually took to complete).
- Ensure KS3 homework letters are sent home at the beginning of the year and replies returned.
- Most importantly, check on a weekly basis that the student planner is being used effectively to record homework and that parents are signing the planner. Your weekly signature will confirm this. Also use these checks to ensure homework timetables are being followed and students have an even spread of work set throughout the week.
- Take appropriate action if parents contact you about homework. Involve the Curriculum Leader and/or Year Leader in difficult cases.

Guidelines for Students

- Remember the handy hints (see below).
- Use blue/black pens for writing and purple pen when acting on feedback.
- Cross out mistakes neatly with a line through the work (don't use correction fluid!).
- Write down date and title in full
- Underline all headings with a ruler
- Use a sharp pencil for diagrams, graphs etc.
- Use a ruler for straight lines, tables etc.
- Information on homework timetables and homework expectations can be found on the following links (students can access this information on their Form Group Google Classroom):
 - [Year 7](#)
 - [Year 8](#)
 - [Year 9](#)
 - [Year 10/11](#)

Year 7 Homework Timetable 2023/24

Your homework will normally be set on the days shown below.

Remember to always record information about your homework in your planner.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7A	English Science	Geography History	Maths	English Science	Spanish
7C	English Science	History Spanish	Maths	English Science	Geography
7M	English Science	Spanish	Maths History	English Science	Geography
7H	English	Science History	Maths Geography	English	Science Spanish
7S	Maths Geography	English Science	History	Science Spanish	English
7W	English Geography	Science Spanish	Maths History	English	Science
7B	English Science	Spanish Geography	Maths History	English	Science
7O	English	Science Geography	Maths History	English Spanish	Science
7R	English History	Science Spanish	Maths	English Geography	Science
7L	English Science	Spanish Geography	Maths	English Science	History

Below you can see how long you should be spending on your homework in each subject. The homework set by each subject may consist of one or more tasks.

	Frequency	Time
Maths	Once per week	60 minutes
English	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Science	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Spanish	Once per week	30 minutes
History	Once per week	30 minutes
Geography	Once per week	30 minutes

Year 8 Homework Timetable 2023/24

Your homework will normally be set on the days shown below.

Remember to always record information about your homework in your planner.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8L	English History	Science	Maths Geography	English Spanish	Science
8O	English History	Science Spanish	Maths	English Science	Geography
8B	English Science	History	Maths Geography	English Science	Spanish
8H	English Science	Geography History	Maths Science	English	Spanish
8R	English Geography	Science Spanish	Maths	English History	Science
8W	English	Science History	Maths Geography	English Spanish	Science
8C	Science Spanish	English	Maths Geography	English Science	History
8M	English Science	Geography	Maths Spanish	English Science	History
8S	English Spanish	Science Geography	Maths	English	Science History
8A	English Science	Geography	Maths History	English Science	Spanish

Below you can see how long you should be spending on your homework in each subject.
The homework set by each subject may consist of one or more tasks.

	Frequency	Time
Maths	Once per week	60 minutes
English	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Science	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Spanish	Once per week	30 minutes
History	Once per week	30 minutes
Geography	Once per week	30 minutes

Year 9 Homework Timetable 2023/24

Your homework will normally be set on the days shown below.
Remember to always record information about your homework in your planner.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
9W	English Science	Maths	Science Spanish	English	History Geography
9H	English Science	Maths Geography	Science	English Spanish	History
9S	English Science	Maths History	Science	English Spanish	Geography
9M	English Geography	Maths Science	History Spanish	English Science (9MA1 & 9MA4)	Science (9MA2 & 9MA3)
9A	English History	Maths Science	Geography	English Science (9MA1 & 9MA4)	Science (9MA2 & 9MA3) Spanish
9C	English Geography	Maths Science	Spanish	English Science (9MA1 & 9MA4)	Science (9MA2 & 9MA3) History
9R	English History	Maths Science	Spanish	English Science (9MA1 & 9MA4)	Science (9MA2 & 9MA3) Geography
9O	English Science	Geography	English	Maths Spanish	Science History
9L	English Science	Geography	English	Maths Spanish	Science History
9B	English Science	Maths	English Science	History Spanish	Geography

Below you can see how long you should be spending on your homework in each subject.
The homework set by each subject may consist of one or more tasks.

	Frequency	Time
Maths	Once per week	60 minutes
English	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Science	Twice per week	30 minutes each
Spanish	Once per week	30 minutes
History	Once per week	30 minutes
Geography	Once per week	30 minutes

Handy Hints for Students:

1. Write down in your planner all of your homework and the date each piece is due.
2. If you are unsure of what to do or are finding the work too difficult, then ask your teacher before the day it is due to be handed in.
3. Make use of your friends and parents/carers as they may be able to help you too!
4. Agree a time with your parents/carers to do your homework each day and show them what you are doing.
5. Leave the homework you find most simple until last.
6. Always try your best and put time and effort into your homework.
7. Make sure you hand in your homework on time.

Examples of homework tasks

Quizzing	Feedforwards	Flipped Learning	Revision
<p>Provide a knowledge organiser/information sheet, pupils study the sheet for a quick quiz on the contents of the sheet in the next lesson. This quiz can be peer assessed.</p> <p>Get students to produce a quiz on a certain topic that other students can attempt at the start of a lesson.</p> <p>Use Google Classroom and Google Forms to write a quiz.</p>	<p>Provide students with an answer to an exam question/essay, students can mark and improve the essay. This can be discussed during a lesson.</p> <p>Get students to summarise a topic on plain paper using diagrams, set a limit on how many words can be used. The students can then explain these to other students.</p> <p>Students could be given a small section of an essay to improve (only a small section is marked - yellow box technique).</p>	<p>Provide students with a task or topic to research - one topic could be split into smaller sections and each student could be given a small part of the topic to research. Students then feedback and explain what they have found to the other students, exam questions could be attempted in class and peer assessed.</p> <p>Use Google Classroom to get students to have a discussion/debate about a question or topic. The students can respond to the question with comments.</p> <p>Reading - read a chapter or an article and assess with a recall quiz in lesson.</p>	<p>Students can produce 'making it stick' resources for homework such as summary sheets or flash cards.</p> <p>Produce a mark scheme for an exam question.</p> <p>Produce a plan for a long answer question.</p> <p>Students can come and complete a question in timed conditions and then self assess it using a mark scheme.</p> <p>Students can revise and practise a revision technique i.e. produce a mind map on a topic. This could be tested in the lesson.</p>