

PLATANOS COLLEGE



HOMEWORK POLICY

2015 – 2016

Homework Policy

“If pupils receive appropriate homework and do it on a regular basis over a five year period they will, in effect, be receiving the equivalent of at least one additional year of full time education. ...a poor homework policy and/or practice makes its contribution to enlarging the achievement gap between advantaged and disadvantaged pupils.” (Hargreaves Report)

HOMEWORK IS IMPORTANT FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS

- It allows pupils to assess, reflect upon and consolidate work that has taken place in the context of a lesson.
- It encourages independent, unsupported learning.
- It allows pupils to pursue their own interests and develop their abilities.
- It enables preparation of a range of activities which can be followed up in subsequent lessons.
- It provides a vehicle for teacher-pupil-parent interaction.

AIMS

- Ensure that parents/carers are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help to continue to raise standards of attainment and progress.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents/carers, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children’s learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for the individual pupil.
- To practise or consolidate basic skills and knowledge.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

The following four principles should apply to ensure that the aims are met:

- **Variety:** appropriate tasks with challenges to match need.
- **Quantity:** frequent setting of tasks according to the Homework Policy.
- **Marking:** regular, positive, selective correction of grammar/spelling, and feedback.
- **Follow up:** issue appropriate sanctions for failure to submit homework and rewards for excellent homework.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBJECT TEACHERS

1. Ensure that homework is recorded onto the Show My Homework online database and that any resources are attached.
2. Where there is a wide spread of ability in a class, it is important to ensure that appropriate homework tasks are set. Where possible, it is important to differentiate by task as well as by outcome. Pupils should not always be left to 'complete a classroom exercise' which they have already finished in the lesson.
3. Give clear, precise instructions and define exactly what is required of pupils and when it is to be handed in.
4. Provide support to pupils with language difficulties with recording homework accurately.
5. Make sure that homework is set according to the schedule issued to pupils.
6. It is important that subject staff ensure that the Pupil Planner is completed each lesson and that the homework set is recorded in the appropriate place, thereby giving a weekly homework record for each group.
7. Always encourage pupils to use their homework diaries when required, so enabling parents to see a complete record of what has been set. Homework could be recorded in full or simply by a note that details are recorded elsewhere, enabling the departmental systems already established to be continued.
8. Marking should be regular and give pupils direction and support.
9. Keep a clear recording system so that there can be no dispute about who was absent when homework was set, handed in, returned etc.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TUTORS

1. Issue Pupil Planners to all pupils and give lesson and homework timetables to pupils at the beginning of the year where appropriate and ensure that the weekly homework schedule is written down.
2. Display timetables and homework schedules prominently in each form room.
3. During form periods, inspect the Pupil Planner and sign in the space provided, checking that homework is clearly recorded.
4. Ensure that pupils know their login details for 'Show My Homework'.
5. Pupils who repeatedly fail to bring their Pupil Planner to school should be reported to the Head of Year/House.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PASTORAL MANAGERS

1. Make regular checks on the use of Pupil Planners to review general progress and homework.
2. Run a homework club for each year group to support pupils identified as needing intervention.
3. Review CHABOP points with regards to homework and recognise pupils with excellent homework records.
4. Periodically check the quantity and quality of homework set for each year group.
5. Ensure that there is a consistent approach across the year group in the use of the planners.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTORS OF LEARNING / HEADS OF DEPARTMENT

1. Directors of Learning and Heads of Department are responsible for ensuring that subject teachers set and mark homework according to the homework timetable and in line with departmental/school policy.
2. Failure to do homework is a matter to be initially dealt with by the subject teacher with the back-up of the Director of Learning/Head of Department when required.
3. Departmental policies, including that for homework, should be clearly defined in the departmental handbook/policies.
4. Directors of Learning/Heads of Departments along with the designated senior member(s) of staff will monitor the implementation of the Homework Policy.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PUPILS

1. To bring their planners to each lesson and to record the homework set each day.
2. To complete all tasks, including homework, to the best of their ability.
3. To hand in their work, completed and on time.
4. To get their planners signed each week by a parent/guardian.
5. To ask their teachers for help when required before the homework due date.
6. To regularly log on to 'Show My Homework'.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS/CARERS

1. To discuss, encourage and review the child's work and progress on a regular basis.
2. To enable their child to have the space and time to study effectively.
3. To encourage their child to make full use of all available resources (such as the school library) to support their learning.
4. To oversee the completion of homework.
5. To contact subject teachers/tutors about any concerns regarding homework.
6. To regularly log on to the '[Show My Homework](#)' online system to ensure that homework is being set regularly by teachers and that their child is aware of any homework set.

A HOMEWORK SCHEDULE WILL BE ISSUED TO ALL STAFF AND PUPILS

KEY STAGE 3 HOMEWORK

ENGLISH

All pupils are expected to take at least two tasks for homework each week. Homework is designed to continue and consolidate work done in class. Pupils are often asked to read independently and this is an important task which parents/carers are asked to encourage. A variety of homework will be set including writing (which is sometimes not expected to be finished in one homework session), learning spelling and exercises to practice punctuation and grammar.

MATHEMATICS

All pupils are expected to take at least two Maths tasks for homework each week. A variety of activities should be set to include problem solving, research, worksheets and other tasks to extend pupils.

SCIENCE

Homework is used to reinforce learning and to consolidate and extend classwork done in Science lessons. A variety of activities will be set including reading and research, design, worksheets and the writing up of practical investigations. Some homework tasks such as revision may not require written evidence. At KS3 there will be an emphasis on learning of new vocabulary.

HISTORY/HUMANITIES

Homework will be selected from a wide range of activities including research, use of media, reading, writing, and the use of worksheets. A pupil who has difficulty with such tasks should discuss and negotiate with their teacher for a task that will be more successful and helpful. Pupils need to find out where dictionaries, encyclopaedias and atlases can be consulted. It would be helpful if pupils are encouraged to become a member of the closest public library.

LANGUAGES

Homework is an extension of class work and is intended to consolidate classroom activities. It is an opportunity for the pupil to develop an independent contact with the foreign language. The use of a bilingual dictionary is encouraged. Some individual research in aspects of the curriculum relating to cultural content can be involved. Creativity is encouraged. Particular attention to presentation is emphasised. Written tasks, as well as tasks designed to improve and encourage reading, are set twice a week. Pupils can be provided with a listening tape on request. They are encouraged to discuss with teachers their difficulties with specific tasks. Progress in homework is carefully monitored and recorded by class teachers.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Homework may be completing or complementing work done in class or it may be a theological or philosophical exercise. RE also involves personal reflection, and we may ask pupils to comment on their own experience of life. Homework is set fortnightly.

ART

Each pupil is issued with homework sketchbooks in which they carry out practical work such as drawing or painting, or they are given written research to do. Pupils will require some basic art materials to work with at home.

TECHNOLOGY

Modules of work are completed approximately every 8 weeks through a combination of classwork and homework – this will include written work, including product analysis, design work and individual research. The time allocated, and nature of the homework, will vary according to each module and lesson structure and will be set when appropriate.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTING

Pupils will be set research and data collection homework based on the activity they are pursuing. It will be set every two (2) weeks to enable pupils to input and analyse the data.

PE

The subject is both practical and theoretical. A variety of homework tasks are set which will involve personal study, laws of the game(s)/activities and individual areas of the syllabus to include written work, individual research.

RECOMMENDED HOURS FOR HOMEWORK COMPLETION

Key Stage 3	
Core subjects	1 hour per week consisting of 2 pieces of work of 30 minutes
Foundation subjects	30 minutes x1 piece of work fortnightly

This recommendation is the minimum requirement.

KEY STAGE 4 HOMEWORK

ENGLISH

In order to complete coursework and to prepare for examinations, the work done independently is of paramount importance. At least two hours of homework should be done each week, remembering pupils are preparing for English Language and English Literature. It is essential that deadlines are met and assignments are prepared and handed in for marking.

MATHEMATICS

All pupils are expected to take at least two Maths tasks each week. A variety of tasks will be set including investigations, project work and revision topics when appropriate. Many pupils like to take advantage of the flexibility of the GCSE syllabus by taking extra homework – this is usually easy to arrange apart from those days their teacher wishes to retain a pupil's book for assessment purposes.

SCIENCE

Homework is used to reinforce learning and to consolidate classwork done in Science lessons. A variety of activities will be set including reading and research, design, revision exercises and worksheets. In addition, pupils will be expected to write reports of investigations, which may run for several weeks, which will be assessed as part of the GCSE. The homework set should reflect the Core/Additional Sciences and Triple Sciences.

HISTORY

Assignments will cover a variety of activities including reading, research, coursework tasks and essays. Most important is the development of the ability to work independently within the timescales/deadlines planned for each course. Pupils are expected, and encouraged, to be competent users of libraries and book resources.

LANGUAGES

Homework is an essential part of the preparation for the GCSE examination. Pupils are required to consolidate class activities by completing two tasks per week (listening/speaking/reading/writing comprehension). Records should be kept of all assignments completed in relation to their GCSE topics.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

For GCSE a variety of homework will be set. This will include research, consideration of philosophical/theoretical issues, and revision exercises where appropriate.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Homework is important to reinforce learning in lessons, to assist with coursework assignments, to encourage initiative, self-reliance and information handling skills. This will take the form of worksheets, investigations and projects.

TECHNOLOGY

Homework assignments are a combination of set assignments, projects and investigations working towards complete of the GCSE, and a consolidation of classwork. They will take the form of written work, revision exercises, individual research and the completion of exam coursework requirements.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY/COMPUTING

Homework is topical and based on the most up-to-date modern topics pupils are studying. The tasks will range from essays to research and analysis. This includes completing coursework requirements for the GCSE exam.

ART

Each pupil is issued with homework sketchbooks in which they carry out practical work such as drawing or painting, or written research. The tasks set will also serve to stretch pupils and prepare them for their practical exams. Pupils will require some basic art materials to work with at home.

DRAMA

Each pupil is expected to complete two written assignments within every half term unit. On occasions they will be expected to rehearse 'plays' and attend theatrical productions outside school hours. Pupils are encouraged to read published/serialised plays as regularly as possible. It is important that pupils keep a working diary throughout their course.

MUSIC

Homework consists of completing coursework when pupils have access to equipment in addition to some theory work. This is often done at school where the instruments are more readily available.

PE

The course is both practical and theoretical. A variety of homework tasks are set which will involve personal study, laws of the game(s)/activities as part of the practical assessment and individual areas of the syllabus to include written work, theory work, individual research and, when appropriate, revision exercises for the examination.

RECOMMENDED HOURS FOR HOMEWORK COMPLETION

Key Stage 4	
Core subjects	2 hours per week
Foundation subjects	1 hour per week

At different times of the academic year, pupils may be set more homework especially at Key Stage 4 due to coursework requirements or external exam preparation.