



The John Fisher School Homework Policy

Responsible: Governors' SLAW Committee

Next Review Date: June 2024

1 Rationale

Homework has a positive effect on students' attainment and achievement because:

- it provides students with further opportunities and time to acquire knowledge and extend their understanding in school subjects.
- it helps students to develop the important skills of independent study and the self-discipline of working without immediate control.
- it teaches students that school is not the only place for learning.
- it has the potential to involve parents/carers constructively in the learning process.
- it encourages students to make use of local libraries, the Internet and the local environment to further their learning.
- it encourages good habits of time management.
- we should consider the value of homework is more in the process and the learning habits than the actual task.

2 Forms and tasks

The learning function of homework is *"to generate a variety of worthwhile learning experiences to those provided in school"*. (HMI)

Homework should allow our students the opportunity to work on a range of tasks:

- Continue the work of the classroom
- Consolidation of learning, and revision Reading - either personal choice or directed Making things
- Creative work (Audio/video) Projects
- Research
- Preparation of future work through investigation using ICT
- Drafting
- Oral practice (e.g. interviewing) Enrichment and extension

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2.1 Guidance for staff

In January 2015, The John Fisher School introduced 'Show My Homework', a programme embedded on the school website which allows students and their parents/carers to access homework tasks on any computer at any time. This also allows students to plan their time and organise their homework routines.

Homework is to be set on 'Show My Homework' and marked in line with the agreed school assessment policy to allow students to reinforce, consolidate and extend their knowledge and understanding. Teachers must consider the type of tasks they set to stretch and challenge, rather than merely asking students to complete classwork.

Research, extension work, revision, background reading and preparing presentations are some examples of homework that will provide variety and challenge.

Teachers must ensure that all homework set is in compliance with their department scheme of work/programme of study.

This will be monitored through book scrutiny and learning observations by the Subject Leaders and/or Key Stage Coordinators.

Teachers will ensure that all homework is entered in the 'Show My Homework' programme on the school's website. This allows students to access homework and associated resources while at home and encourages them to organise their time effectively. In addition, parents/carers are encouraged to monitor their son(s) homework on a regular basis through this programme.

This is a vehicle to communicate all homework with students and parents/carers efficiently and effectively. We expect all teachers to make full use of this resource and it is to become the focal point of our homework. The link to The John Fisher School 'Show My Homework' is:

<https://thejohnfisher.satchelone.com/school/home>

- Homework need not be dominated by extended writing activities. Our students should be given opportunities to work and learn in a variety of ways.
- When "Projects" are set, there must be a clear expectation communicated as to the required content, length and organisation. Progress of the "Project" should be monitored at frequent

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intervals. Weekly checks will be put in place.

- Homework should be set in good time before the end of the lesson and uploaded onto Show My Homework platform. At this time staff should explain precisely what is required and give guidance about where additional information/resources may be acquired.
- Homework tasks should be differentiated so that they are related to the ability of all the students in a class.
- Students should be provided with sufficient materials and/or information successfully to complete the task.

Homework must have a purpose behind it. This should have been determined in advance of the lesson. It should not be set simply to fulfil the requirement for homework. Similarly, finishing off classwork is not seen as a suitable task when it leaves the most able students with little to do at home and the weakest to work with no support

2.2 Setting homework

- Homework will be set according to the homework timetable.
- Tasks will be relevant and appropriate for all students.
- Staff will expect work of a high quality and demand the best of each student.
- Tasks should be as specific as possible with staff indicating the amount of time to be devoted to them and deadline dates for completion.
- Staff should indicate to students the assessment criteria to be used when work is graded.
- When teachers are absent they should provide, with their lesson details, any homework that is to be set. Where this may not be possible, in the case of prolonged sickness, the Subject Leader should make provision.
- Students should be given a behavior point and subsequently a detention for failing to submit homework.
- Persistent homework failure will result in further sanctions being issued

2.3 Monitoring

- Form Tutors should make regular checks of SMH to ensure homework is being set.
- Subject teachers should ensure that homework is being correctly recorded on SMH.
- Subject Leaders should monitor student's books to ensure that the policy is being followed and that appropriate tasks are being set.
- The Senior Leadership Team should monitor the policy by examining SMH and asking to see pupils' work.

2.4 Marking

- All homework marking MUST conform to the AFL technique of one (or two) item of What Went

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Well, and one item of Even Better If...

- Homework should be marked punctually and regularly according to the Department's policy. This policy will reflect the 'Whole School Assessment Policy'.
- Marking should contain feedback to students on their performance in relation to their strengths and weaknesses and should contain a DIRT reflection task.
- Students should be given a clear understanding of each Department's marking policy, which, in itself, will reflect the Whole School Policy.

2.5 Workload

All subjects will aim to set one homework task per fortnight.

- Pupils in Years 7 & 8 should be given approximately 30 minutes per subject
- Pupils in Year 9 should be given up to 45 minutes per subject
- Pupils in Years 10 & 11 should be given approximately one hour per subject
- Sixth Form students should expect to do 15 hours per fortnight

Parents/carers should write to staff if their son has found the workload too heavy on any particular evening.

2.6 Homework Timetables

- Timetables will be produced by Directors of Learning in consultation with Departments
- Timetables should be produced and published in the first week of term.

2.7 General

- This policy should be communicated to all students at the beginning of each Academic Year by

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the relevant Director of Learning.

- The policy should be included in the Staff Handbook and, in abbreviated form, in the Prospectus.
- The information in this policy must be communicated to our parents/carers. Where necessary they should be informed about how they can help their children.
- Students who have learning difficulties may receive assistance with their homework at the 'Homework Club'. This should be arranged through the SENCO.
- All students should be encouraged to attend Homework Club.

