



Homework Policy

Governor Committee Responsible		Teaching & Learning	
School Staff member Responsible		Assistant Headteacher (Performance Development)	
Policy Type	Non Statutory	Review period	Annual
Date created:	September 2013 June 2015 (reviewed)	Next Review:	June 2017

Guidelines

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

White Paper, 'Excellence in Schools.'

- We, at Ryburn Valley High School, value homework and it is a fundamental feature of school life.
- This policy acts as an overarching policy that should be supported by individual departmental homework policies. These are published on the VLE.
- This policy should be read in conjunction with the Assessment policy.
- Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum but not necessarily to be done at home.
- Homework contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.
- It is important in raising student achievement.
- We provide a before and after school homework facility based in the library.
- Homework establishes good independent learning habits which are important for public examinations.
- Homework produced by pupils should always be of high quality.
- Different types of homework should be set.
- There should be a balance between reading, writing and research.
- Responsibility for homework should be shared between students, parents and peers. Emphasis is placed on parental responsibility to ensure homework is completed.

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.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- Enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- Take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Departmental Homework Policies

Core subjects, and some non-core subjects, should regularly set homework once per week. All other subjects should set homework once per fortnight. As a guiding principle, between 6 and 8 hours a week should be set collectively by subject staff at KS3; 8 to 10 hours at KS4 and up to 15 hours at KS5.

Homework is recorded in student planners by each subject. If more than one homework is being set per week/fortnight, then only one homework needs to be recorded. Heads of Department and Heads of Year use planners to monitor the setting of homework.

Subject staff use planners to record homework that is either not done or is incomplete. Sanctions for unsatisfactory work, or homework not done, are initially the responsibility of the subject teacher. Repeated lack of homework is then dealt with by the Head of Department. If 3 subject homeworks are not done, then the Head of Year will become involved.

Each department has a homework policy that applies to all 3 key stages and covers the key details listed below.

1. Departmental policies explain when homework will be set.
2. If subjects set project homework, then each project will be broken down into manageable tasks and interim homework deadlines will be set in planners.
3. The amount homework is set will be outlined (see above).
4. The types of homework set will be outlined.
5. The place of homework in the scheme of work will be explained.
6. The faculty/departmental incentives will be explained.
7. Methods of monitoring homework will be outlined.
8. Homework action plans will be outlined following the most recent detailed monitoring of homework.

Incentives

At Ryburn, we actively encourage homework by setting tasks that stimulate pupils' interest and are based firmly in their learning.

- High quality homework at all levels of ability should be praised and showcased, such as: included in display work, in the newsletter, and exemplars saved for other pupils to use.
- Rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. This may include comments praising good or exceptional homework and commendations given. Some Heads of Department send postcards home for good/exceptional homework.

Homework Clubs

- Many subjects offer opportunities to attend extra sessions outside of class time. This is particularly true of Technology, ICT and Maths for instance.
- The school library is available for both supported and independent learning every day before school from 8.00 am and after school until 4.15 pm except on Fridays when it closes at 4.00 pm.
- Room W110 is staffed throughout lunchtimes every day except Wednesdays.

The role of the Parents

- The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework.
- To reinforce the value of homework through positive feedback.
- To give pupils the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach the highest standards of achievement that a pupil can achieve.

Parents can assist by:

- ✓ Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
- ✓ Negotiating with the pupil when homework is to be done as a pupil's free time is important, too.
- ✓ Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- ✓ Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
- ✓ Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- ✓ Signing the homework planner each week.
- ✓ Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

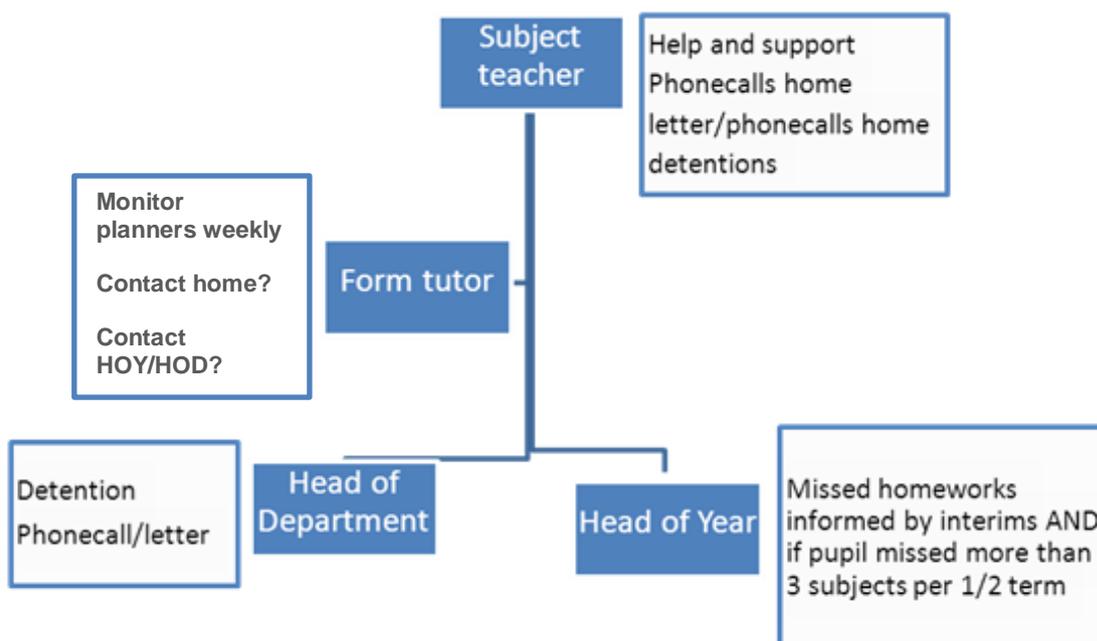
Pupils should

- ✓ Take responsibility for ensuring that homework is understood.
- ✓ Ensure that they have the necessary resources to complete homework.
- ✓ Ensure that the homework is recorded in enough detail to be acted upon.
- ✓ Have their planners with them every school day.
- ✓ Show parents/carers what they are expected to do and by when.
- ✓ Check that all homework has been done and on time.

Subject Staff

- ✓ Will keep a record of homework set
- ✓ Check the completion of all pupils' homework and take the appropriate action if it is not completed.

Schematic view of staff responsibilities



Homework tasks can be:

- Collecting/Gathering
- Consolidation of classwork
- Designing/Planning/Creating
- Independent learning
- Interviews
- Investigation
- Learning/Revising/Memorising
- Listening, Practice or Rehearsal
- Model-making
- Practice - learning by doing
- Reading
- Recording
- Research
- Revision
- Simple experiments
- Surveys
- Viewing television or films
- Writing

*3 missed homeworks in at least three subjects in one half term.

