



READING BLUE COAT SCHOOL

Homework Policy

Homework is any work or activity which students are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. It is not explicitly only work done at home, as homework may be undertaken within school, through using facilities such as the Library and the ICT suites.

The purpose of homework is:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- To extend individual learning, for example through additional reading
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands, such as GCSE coursework or project work
- To support the home/school relationship

Timetables

In September each year, pupils are given a homework timetable for their year group, which runs from Monday to Friday. Within the timetable, different classes and option groups will be set different homeworks on each night and so, under the guidance of tutors, pupils are expected to produce their own bespoke homework timetable, a copy of which should be made for parental use.

Pupils in Years 7 and 8 should have two homeworks per week for English, Mathematics, Science and both Modern Foreign Languages (French and German/Spanish) and one for all other subjects, except PE and Games. Homeworks are expected to take between twenty and thirty minutes to complete.

A similar pattern exists in Year 9, except here each of the separate Science subjects sets one homework each. Each homework in Year 9 is expected to take thirty minutes to complete.

In Years 10 and 11, all subjects, except the individual sciences and Religious Studies, set two homeworks per week, each taking pupils forty minutes to complete.

Although there is no formal timetable in Years 12 and 13, students are expected to devote approximately three hours per week outside lessons to each subject. They are also encouraged, in addition, to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge.

Types of Homework

The nature of the homework will naturally vary between subjects and year groups. However, over the course of a year, it is intended that a wide range of homework tasks will be set for pupils to complete. These might include:

- Writing assignments
- Learning assignments
- Preparation for an oral presentation
- Reading in preparation for a lesson
- Finding out information or researching a project

Responsibilities

Subject Teachers

- The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework in a clear and understandable fashion and ensuring that pupils have written down the instructions in their Student Planner.
- Marking homework tasks forms an integral part of teacher assessment and so the teacher will aim to return marked homework to pupils as soon as possible for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupils' minds.

Pupils

- Pupils should always carry their Student Planner with them and record the homework set for the relevant day, even if they have written it in detail in their exercise book.
- Pupils are responsible for ensuring that deadlines are kept. If they are absent, they need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it: being away on the day that the homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, pupils should see the member of staff concerned for help.

Parents

- Parents should support pupils with their homework but accept that their role will become less and less important as their child becomes more responsible and independent.
- Parents should try and provide a reasonable place where their child can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities.
- Parents should encourage pupils to meet homework deadlines and, if they feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the tutor who will investigate the situation.
- Parents are asked to check and sign their son's Student Planner on a weekly basis and to use it to communicate any concerns about homework to the tutor.

Sanctions

We expect homework tasks to be completed and to be handed in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with

their marking schedules. If homework is not given in, appropriate action is taken, as outlined in the School's Rewards and Sanctions Policy. Plagiarism, the submitting of work for marking that has been copied from another pupil, downloaded from the internet or copied directly from a text, is expressly forbidden and all suspected cases of collusion or copying will be thoroughly investigated and, where necessary, appropriate sanctions applied.

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