



GARTREE HIGH SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Rationale

Continued study outside the classroom is an important part of pupils' learning. Opportunities for such study are regularly supplied by all curriculum areas. The amount and type of task set depends upon the age and ability of the individual pupil, together with the nature of the subject.

Homework encourages pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own. This is vital given the importance for pupils of lifelong learning and adaptability.

Homework can help to consolidate and reinforce knowledge, skills and understanding developed at school. It can extend school learning and sustain the involvement of parents and carers, keeping them informed about the work pupils are doing.

Research suggests that homework can have significant positive effects on pupil progress. However, research also suggests that homework becomes increasingly effective with older students, and that the usefulness of homework depends very strongly on the type of tasks set. Homework should always be a planned part of curriculum delivery.

Reasons for setting homework

- to reinforce and consolidate work covered in class
- to further and deepen understanding of work covered in class
- to prepare for the next lesson or topic
- to develop reading skills and habits
- to improve accuracy and detail of work
- to develop the ability to plan and meet deadlines
- to promote independent learning skills
- to develop good study habits, self discipline and personal organisation
- to inform the teacher of progress in knowledge, learning or understanding

Types of homework

Homework tasks need to be interesting, varied and relevant.

Examples include:

- research (should be clearly framed with a defined outcome)
- reading for pleasure, reading for information
- summarising / comprehension
- problem solving
- practicing techniques

- learning key knowledge/facts for recall
- collecting data
- revision (structure and methods would normally be suggested)
- essays
- sketching
- watching relevant TV programmes
- designing
- collecting ingredients

How often homework is set / how much homework is set

English, Maths and Science set homework most weeks. Foundation subjects set homework regularly depending on the nature of the subject. At times it is appropriate to set a larger piece of homework to be done over an extended period of time. Heads of department will be responsible for clearly setting out the expectations on setting and marking homework. For example, in some subjects, homework will be set when it arises in certain aspects of the course and pupils will be signposted to relevant sources of information linked to courses e.g. websites or the class Team.

For a minority of pupils, homework is not appropriate and should not be set. The Learning Support Department provides advice and guidance regarding circumstances where specific learners would not benefit from completing homework.

Pupils will be expected to spend more time on their homework as they progress from year 7 to year 9. The teacher will always indicate the standards expected, and therefore the appropriate amount of time that good work will take. As a guideline, pupils should spend up to 30 minutes on each homework activity (with a maximum of 5 hours per week).

Pupils participate in extra-curricular and out of school activities, therefore homework deadlines should allow a reasonable period of time for completion, usually a working week.

Support

A range of homework support is available for pupils. These include:

- access to the library and ICT every break and lunchtime
- homework club after school
- advice and guidance from subject teachers
- access to resources, materials
- staggered completion dates / deadlines for extended projects.
- next steps available for those pupils wanting to do extension work
- copies of work made available on MS Teams

Procedures

Staff will set homework on MS Teams, which will automatically upload details onto the My Child At School (MCAS) app. The expected date for handing in the work will be made clear This will ensure

that parents have access to homework details and deadlines. Staff should also encourage students to note the homework accurately in their planners. It is helpful for this to be done well before the end of a lesson. In the cases of a project or extended piece of homework the teacher may supply a slip with an outline, including assessment criteria. Teachers will set homework which is matched to the abilities of students, but this will always be set at a level that challenges students. This may mean different tasks for students with different ability levels.

Homework will be marked promptly and oral or written feedback given. This may include self and peer marking when appropriate.

Roles and responsibilities

Pupils are expected to

- record homework set in their planners
- complete work to the best of their ability
- submit work on time
- seek help as necessary and in good time

Parents are asked to

- look at the MCAS app and planners every week and discuss homework tasks with their child
- share any concerns with teaching staff via email or through student planners
- provide an environment at home enabling the pupil to engage in homework
- encourage their child to complete homework

Subject Teachers

- ensure worthwhile homework is set in line with Department agreements
- record the homework on MS Teams and ensure pupils record their homework
- provide copies of materials on Teams, and if appropriate, require submission through Teams as well
- respond to parental contact
- ensure pupil receives adequate support and encouragement to produce high quality homework
- record receipt of homework on MS Teams
- mark / give constructive feedback on homework promptly
- celebrate and reward homework successes

HoD

- ensure there is a homework policy within the subject
- ensure homework is set in accordance with the policy
- ensure that all homework is marked in accordance with school policy
- ensure that staff maintain a record of homework completed
- apply the appropriate reward and sanction as agreed within the department
- communicate any concern to both pupil and parent and inform them of support if necessary

- ensure the department makes an effective contribution to school homework and study support
- liaise with other HoD to share good practice and successes.

Leadership Team

- ensure the Homework Policy is monitored and applied by all teaching staff
- maintain a high profile and status for homework through regular reference
- provide facilities and support in school for homework completion