

**fortismere**

# **Homework Policy**

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## **1. Rationale**

This policy statement has been produced on the basis of consultation with staff. It is designed to provide a coherent framework from which departments can develop a consistent and effective approach to homework taking into consideration students of all ages and levels of ability.

At Fortismere we believe that homework is important in:

- reinforcing positive attitudes to school work
- encouraging and developing self-organisation and self-discipline
- reinforcing, broadening and extending the school curriculum
- developing the home/school partnership
- preparing students for life opportunities and experiences

## **2. The Purposes of Homework**

There are many reasons for setting homework, the most important ones being to;

- encourage and develop self-discipline and study habits
- reinforce class work and consolidate learning
- provide opportunities for teachers to assess students' progress and to maintain a dialogue with the student about their learning
- give students experience of working on their own, and to develop in students a sense of responsibility for, and commitment to, their own learning
- involve parents in the educational process and provide an insight into the work of the student

## **3. Principles underlying homework policy and practice**

- Homework should be carefully planned and be an integral part of course work.
- Students should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set.
- Homework should be issued to all year groups, in all subjects and to all students
- Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable.

## **4. Types of Homework**

Homework tasks should be set to reflect ongoing class work across the curriculum. The list below is not exhaustive.

Homework can take the form of:

- A specific self-contained project, exercise or task, based on previous class work.
- Further examples of tasks undertaken in class and designed to reinforce what has been learned
- Completing work begun in class
- Reviewing, and, if appropriate, memorising what has been learned in class
- Follow-up work to assessment, ensuring that the student learns from errors
- An extended task or project, spanning several weeks
- Researching at home or in libraries using a variety of sources including ICT
- Revising and preparing for tests / examinations

## **5. Frequency and duration of homework tasks**

Homework tasks will be set according to an agreed timetable according to the year group of the student and the nature of the subject.

### **Years 7 – 9**

Students in years 7 – 9 will be set one homework task per week in English, Languages, Maths and Science, and one homework task per fortnight in other subjects. Some subjects such as PE may set homework less frequently.

The duration of each task should be approximately 25 minutes in year 7, 35 minutes in year 8 and 45 minutes in year 9.

Where a subject sets an extended task over several weeks (for example History), the expectation will be that the student will spend an average time per week as stated above. The department issuing the homework will be expected to give further guidance to students to enable them to break the tasks into smaller parts.

## **Years 10 & 11**

Student will be set one task per subject of approximately one hour each week.

## **Years 12 & 13**

Students will be set one task of approximately one hour each week by each of their teachers (normally two teacher per subject), and should spend at least the same amount of time per week on reviewing notes, supplementary reading and revision.

### **5a. Homework timetable**

The school does not publish a prescriptive homework timetable. Teachers are expected to adhere to the arrangements described above, and to set homework with a reasonable deadline for completion (it is not usually expected that students would have to hand in homework the next day, for example). Students are expected to develop their organisational skills by planning the completion of their homework tasks according to their homework calendar (please see below).

## **6. The Setting and recording of homework activities**

Teachers will set homework through the online resource “Show My Homework” (SMHW) (<https://fortismere.showmyhomework.co.uk>)

Teachers will upload the details of the homework including the nature of the task and instruction for its completion, the due date and other instructions. The teacher will inform the class that homework has been set. The teacher may also attach other resources that may be required such as supplementary worksheets, links to website or videos etc.

Each student has a personal log in for the site that presents them with their personal calendar which shows them what tasks have been set, how long to the deadline for each task and so on. Students can also mark tasks as having been completed to help them with their organisation.

Please note that it is possible to view all homework tasks without logging in; students can use various filters (year group, subject etc) to find the homework tasks that apply to them. Forgotten passwords will not be accepted as a reason for failing to complete a homework task.

Parents and carers will also be allocated a log in to enable them to support their child's organisation and completion of homework. This is particularly important for younger students.

Students that do not have access to the internet at home can use computers around the school, particularly in the Library which is open from 8am before school and until 5pm after school.

There is also a SMHW app for Android and iOS devices which is free to download.

## **7. Students failing to complete homework**

Failure to complete homework is addressed through our behaviour management system, Behaviour for Learning – BfL. Please see the full Behaviour Policy for details, but in brief;

If a student fails to meet a homework deadline, the teacher issues a warning which is recorded on the school's system, and sets another deadline. This may be the next day or the next lesson and is at the discretion of the teacher.

If the student fails to meet the rearranged deadline, the teacher will issue a C3 detention. The student is, of course, still expected to complete the homework.

A student that regularly fails to meet homework deadlines will quickly come to the attention of Heads of Department and College and will become subject to the systems in place for students accumulating C3 detentions (please see the behaviour policy).

If your child is unable to meet a homework deadline for reasons that you believe to be reasonable, please contact the teacher to let them know, as they will usually agree another deadline for the homework.

Appendix;

Teachers' setting of homework

Teachers will set homework according to the guidelines set out above regarding frequency, duration and deadlines.

Teachers will post instructions for the homework, along with any supporting materials, links etc and inform students in the relevant lesson that homework has been set and remind students to check their SMHW calendar.

Any printed material that is essential for the completion of the homework (for example worksheets, test papers etc) will be provided; it should not be necessary for students to print materials at home in order to complete a task.

Worksheets and support sheets will be posted on to the SMHW site in pdf format.

Teachers will use the SMHW gradebook to record the handing in of homework; this information will be visible to students and parents / carers.

Teacher may also choose to use the gradebook for keeping assessment information if they choose to have students make on line submissions of homework, but this is not compulsory.

Teachers will follow the steps laid out in the Behaviour Policy to deal with students that do not meet homework deadlines.