



Homework Policy

Approved by Governors on 20 November 2018

Review Committee: Student Support

Review: Autumn 2020



HOMEWORK POLICY

Mission Statement

“Love one another as I have loved you” (John, 15)

We believe that Jesus Christ and his Gospel Call – to love God and all people – are at the heart of what we do.

He inspires us, as children of God, to uphold the dignity of each individual.

We strive to develop a community in Christ which fully supports all in achieving their potential – spiritually, academically and personally.

Rationale

At Christ the King, homework is an essential part of the whole learning of the individual. It is not merely an 'add on' but is a vital aspect of supporting, extending and preparing for the learning that takes place in the classroom.

The school believes that a well-managed and purposeful homework programme helps students to develop the skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning.

The Benefits of Homework

The purpose of homework is to enhance learning through:

- Reinforcing and consolidating learning which has taken place in the classroom
- Allowing the opportunity to extend work beyond the classroom
- The revision and research of topics in preparation for assessment or new work.
- Involving Parents/Carers in the learning process
- Allowing further opportunities to recognise and develop a range of learning styles
- Developing independent learning
- Teaching effective time management skills and personal organisation
- Developing thinking and research skills
- Motivating students and stimulating learning

Good Practice

Staff at Christ the King have identified the following as examples of good practice with regards to effective homework:

- Homework should be varied in nature, both in terms of outcome (e.g. projects, essays, extended answers, multimedia, research) and in terms of skills developed (e.g. knowledge consolidation, applying ideas, analysis, evaluating viewpoints)
- "Flipped Learning" is an excellent way for students to demonstrate independent learning in preparation for new topics
- Tasks and/or outcomes should be differentiated in order to challenge all students
- Offering the opportunity to complete from a choice or menu of tasks can help to develop a range of learning styles for different students
- Writing and underlining titles and dates in class (when homework is set) can help improve presentation
- Students should be given the opportunity to improve their homework where appropriate

Staff have identified that homework should:

- Be linked to a well-planned Scheme of Work
- Provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their independent learning skills and understanding
- Consolidate and build upon work done in class, not merely consist of completing work not finished during lessons
- Be recorded homework in some detail using Student Planners which helps students to be clear about what is expected. Students appreciate the setting of appropriate deadlines for handing in homework
- Give students access to appropriate resources through setting tasks on Firefly (or providing hard copies)

Homework Timetable

At the start of the school year a homework timetable is produced by the Assistant Headteacher (Curriculum). Homework is allocated to specific days of the week to ensure, as far as possible, that there is an equitable spread across the week.

House Tutors share the homework timetable with their group, ensuring that students understand the arrangements. The homework timetable is also published on the school website and Firefly.

The Role of the Teacher

- To communicate the expectations of the homework policy to learners in their classes
- It is important that teaching staff set homework according to the homework timetable. In exceptional circumstances staff should explain carefully to students why homework has to be moved to another day
- Where appropriate, Firefly can be used to set homework
- To ensure a hard copy of homework set using Firefly is available for students who are unable to access the system electronically
- Teachers should ensure that a record of the homework set is accurately recorded within Student Planners, being as explicit as possible (e.g. when the work is due in, expected outcomes, model examples)
- On the rare occasions homework is not set, this should be recorded within the planner.
- Feedback on homework should be in accordance with the whole school Marking and Feedback Policy

The Role of the Student

- To record homework set in their planner
- To complete homework by the deadline set and to the best of their ability
- To inform teachers if they are unable to access Firefly and therefore will require a hard copy of homework tasks
- To ensure parents/carers sign their planner on a weekly basis

Failure to complete homework or producing homework of an unacceptable standard

This will initially be dealt with at departmental level and students will be given one additional opportunity to submit homework or complete it to an acceptable level. If this is not done the student will receive a 50 minute after school detention.

Achievement Coordinators will take additional measures with students who persistently fail to complete homework or consistently produce of an unacceptable standard.

Monitoring Homework

Homework will be monitored on a number of levels:

House Tutors:

- To ensure that students record homework in planners and that these are signed by parents/carers. Any concerns in this regard should be passed to Achievement Coordinators

Subject Teachers:

- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of homework completion and, where appropriate, marks/grades/levels awarded to students
- Liaise with Heads of Department and/or Achievement Coordinators with regard to concerns over individual students

Heads of Department:

- To ensure that procedures are in place to monitor the consistency and quality of homework being set

- To ensure that there are clear homework tasks identified within schemes of work and that they are consistently used
- To ensure that homework set across the department is being marked in line with the whole school Marking and Feedback Policy and returned within a reasonable timeframe
- To report on the quality and consistency of homework as part of whole school self-evaluation processes

Achievement Co-ordinators:

- To check any emerging patterns related to homework and liaise with relevant Heads of Department
- Refer students to Homework Club as appropriate
- Liaise with parents as appropriate

Senior Leadership Team:

- Through Departmental Reviews, Departmental SEFs, Work Scrutiny and Student Planner checks, monitor the quality and consistency of homework being set and completed across the school.
- Support staff in addressing issues related to non-completion of homework or work done to an unacceptable standard.

Parental Involvement

Homework is an opportunity for parents to show an active interest in the work their child is undertaking. The importance of homework will be made clear at Parents' Evenings. Parents should monitor the quantity and quality of homework that is being done, sign Student Planners on a weekly basis, and are invited to use this to maintain a dialogue between themselves and staff as appropriate. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in helping their child to organise their time and work as efficiently as possible, as well as ensuring that homework is fully completed and submitted on time.

Review: Homework Policy to be reviewed biannually.