



## **Homework Policy**

Homework is an important part of the learning journey of a student.

### **Aims of the policy**

- encouraging regular study habits, perseverance and self-discipline
- to support the acquisition of knowledge
- enabling students to develop independent learning skills, including the confidence and motivation which will support them in valuing learning as a lifelong process
- opening up the curriculum, exploiting materials and resources not always available in the classroom
- giving opportunities for practising and consolidating skills learned in class
- helping students learn how to plan and organise tasks, manage time, make choices, and problem solve- all skills that contribute to effective functioning in the adult world of work and families
- enhancing the involvement of parents and carers in their child's learning

### **How we achieve our Aims**

#### **1. To ensure that homework is meaningful and ensures students achieve their potential**

Teachers need to ensure students

- are clear on the need for and benefits of homework
- are able to or enabled to organise their work
- know how, when and where to best to do their homework. They should be supported to be able to make relevant choices for their own circumstances
- are supported to be able to assess the quality of the work they have done
- know how and when to involve others and what support is available

As teachers, we achieve this by:

- setting appropriate tasks for homework
- ensuring that homework is explained fully in lessons – including showing students modelled examples where appropriate
- reinforcing students' and families clarity about the homework by using Show My Homework
- including homework feedback and tasks in the main body of the lesson
- giving students clear deadlines and ensure these are written in planners
- using the school's rewards systems to encourage and reward effort and achievement
- acknowledging the completion of homework on Show My Homework
- marking and providing feedback when deemed professionally appropriate

- corresponding with families where homework is not submitted, incomplete or/and of not the required standard.

The Elmgreen School encourages parents to support their children in completing homework to a good standard by:

- discussing homework with their child, making it clear that they value homework and explaining how homework can help them make progress
- helping ensure homework is completed on time by helping their child organise their study time
- praising their child for well completed work
- signing their child's planner each week to check homework is being completed
- if possible providing a quiet place to work

## Appropriate tasks for homework

Homework that helps students' achieve their potential will usually build on skills taught in lessons concurrent to its setting, encourage students to bring new learning back into lessons or extend the learning that is taking place.

Finishing work from class should generally be avoided and tasks should either be discrete or be leading to or informing another task or outcome.

Homework is most useful when it directly links to current, previous or future learning in the lesson. It is useful to define types of homework so that teachers and students can consider the range of tasks being set and the skills they demand.

Preparation	Students are asked to bring prior knowledge to the learning in a way that helps them engage in a topic. For example: ask 5 people their opinion of a piece of art by a famous artist, bullet point three reasons you support or oppose testing on animals, find out 5 uses for modes in business/industry.
Research	Students are given clear guidelines about the topic to find out about with clear instructions about the format in which the research is to be presented. For example, instead of asking to find 5 facts about Cromwell, answer an open-ended question, such as 'Why is there a statute of Cromwell on Whitehall?'
Practice	Students practise a skill they have been working on in lessons by answering questions/writing in the style they have been taught.
Revision	Homework where students are asked to make mind maps, note cards, posters, bullet points or diagrams of facts/information from the lesson to help them prepare for a text or exam.
Extension	Students are given an article to read or a list of websites, books to browse to deepen their understanding of a topic that has been taught
Transformation	Students are asked to present what they have learnt in a radically different form: the plot of a novel told through storyboard, a cake in the form of different cells in the body.
Redrafting	Students are asked to use the teacher's feedback to improve upon their original work. This can be further supported through the use of mark schemes and model answers.
Assessment for learning	Students are asked to use a mark scheme or criteria to grade and comment on model answers or the work of peers.

## **Setting homework**

Whilst all students work at different rates we believe it is important to give guidelines of time to help students and families.

**Year 7: 30-60 minutes a day plus independent reading.**

**Year 8: 45-90 minutes a day plus independent reading.**

**Year 9: 60-120 minutes a day plus independent reading.**

**Year 10-11: 90-150 minutes a day plus independent reading.**

**Year 12-13: 5 hours independent study per subject per week**

Careful consideration needs to be given to the needs of EAL and SEND students in setting homework.

Staff should also be sensitive to the responsibilities some students may have outside of school and be flexible where reasonable requests are made by families.

## **The impact of homework and student voice about homework**

- Student response to homework will be assessed as part of the school's regular work scrutiny procedures
- Examples of outstanding practice may be shared in ML or whole school briefing
- Raising Standards Leaders or the Deputy Head Teacher for Teaching and Learning will listen to student voice about homework via Student Council at least once per year and feedback to the Senior Team and Middle Leaders their ideas and suggestions

## **Review of the policy**

The homework policy will be reviewed by the Achievement, Teaching and Committee

Review Period 3 years

Last Review June 2014

Reviewed June 2016