



HOMEWORK POLICY

Originator	Authorised by	Date Adopted	Date of Review	Next Review
Jen Lowry-Johnson	Board of Governors	July 2016	Sept 2018	Sept 2020

Overview

There is no arguing that when a school's homework policy is properly and clearly monitored, it makes a valuable contribution to children's learning. Ofsted recognised this fact in 2012 when it changed its framework for "outstanding teaching" to recommend that homework be set and marking carried out frequently to provide pupils with clear guidance on where they are in their learning and how they can improve.

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.

It is important in raising student achievement. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Aims

Homework enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Homework can be:

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of coursework assignments
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording

What should be considered when setting homework?

- Planned and focused activities are more beneficial than homework which is not linked to class activities or irrelevant to learning outcomes.
- It should not be used as a punishment or penalty for poor performance.
- A variety of tasks with different levels of challenge is likely to be beneficial.

- The quality of homework is more important than the quantity. Pupils should receive feedback on homework which is specific and timely.
- Have you made the purpose of homework clear to children? e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or fluency in a particular area.

What is Show My Homework?

Show My Homework is a simple homework calendar the school will be using to ensure homework is set and communicated with parents across the school. Teachers can use it to set homework quickly and ensure the learners and parents always have the information they need about homework available via the Web, Mobile and Tablet devices.

How can homework be accessed?

Homework can be accessed by teachers, students and parents in the following ways:

- Please go to ormistonchadwickacademy.showmyhomework.co.uk - There is no login required to see the school homework calendar. You can see homework that is set across the school and then use the filters to find what you are looking for.
- A personalised homework calendar is available for all users including students and parents. Once you login, you can only see your own homework schedule.
- There are iPhone and Android apps available for free for students and parents.
- The Show My Homework service is available and works on all devices using a modern browser such as IE 8+, Safari, Chrome and Firefox.

Responsibilities

The role of the pupil:

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To visit the school homework calendar via the school website.
- To download the Apple or Android app if they have a smart phone to see their homework.
- To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary if this has been requested by the teacher.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor:

- To include homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded via the Show My Homework reports.
- To check the students know where to access the school homework.
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher:

- The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.
- Ensures that homework is set on Show My Homework for all classes.
- Set homework according to the timetable.
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework promptly.
- Provide help and support.
- Inform the Faculty Director and Curriculum Leader, Tutor and Head of House, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of the Resource Manager:

- To provide after school and lunchtime opportunities for independent study.

The role of the Pastoral / Subject Leader:

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
- To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area.
- To praise accordingly student that consistently do homework and highlight the learners that need support.

The role of SLT member responsible for homework:

- To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school.
- To review on a termly basis the school homework policy.
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy.

The role of the Parents:

- The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents can assist by:
 - Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
 - Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free play is important too.
 - Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
 - Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
 - Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
 - Signing the homework planner each week.
 - Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

Monitoring of Homework:

Homework is very much a school-wide topic. Therefore it requires a consistent approach across the school. It must be easy for all stakeholders to have an overview of homework as time is very limited. To ensure that everyone meets the homework guidelines set, we have the following options to monitor homework.

Classroom teachers / tutors:

- Using Show My Homework teachers can keep a record of all the homework set daily, weekly, termly and yearly.
- Teachers can keep a record of student submissions to see quickly who has completed or missed homework deadlines.
- Teachers can search for any student they teach or at the school and see the homework the student has been set at anytime.
- All teaching staff have access to the school homework reports which are designed to save time and can be exported to Excel.

Middle leaders / pastoral leaders:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much / little homework has been set in the department quickly and accurately.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.

- As a head of department / head of house or pastoral leader, see quickly how your cohort is engaging with homework across subjects.
- Deep dive into the quality of homework set by colleagues in your department at anytime without having to request for homework samples.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Ensure colleagues in your department save time by encouraging collaboration and using homework already created by the department more effectively.

Inclusion staff / support:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much / little homework individual learners have been set.
- See very quickly what homework individual learners have been set and be able to share this information quickly and effectively with parent/carers.
- Use Show My Homework to plan relevant support and preparation work required to support the learners more effectively.

Senior Leaders / Principal:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to quickly measure against the expectations outlined for homework.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.
- Deep dive into the quality of homework set by colleagues across the school at anytime without having to request for homework samples.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Use Show My Homework to put in relevant interventions to support learners that are consistently missing deadlines.
- Share weekly homework statistics across the school.
- Reduce homework excuses and parental complaints by providing a consistent message regarding homework and expectations.
- Use Show My Homework to reach and communicate with hard to reach parents.

Students:

- Show My Homework makes it easy for students to see how much homework and the details of homework they have at any given time via:
 - The school website (no login required)
 - By logging in, the student can see a personalised homework calendar.
 - By downloading the iPhone or Android app, students get reminders and push notifications about homework deadlines.
 - By setting up their email, students can also receive email notifications and reminders.
 - Show My Homework also works on all modern browsers and devices and also with a 3G connection ensuring homework is accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Students have the option to print homework at school should the resources not be available at home.
- Students can look at the homework calendar to plan their time better and avoid missing deadlines.

Parents:

- Show My Homework makes it easy for parents to monitor school homework via:
 - The school website (no login required)

- By logging in, the parent/carer can see a personalised homework calendar.
- By downloading the iPhone or Android app, parents get reminders and push notifications about homework deadlines for the learner.
- By setting up their email, parents can also receive email notifications and reminders. Show My Homework also works on all modern browsers and devices and also with a 3G connection ensuring homework is accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Parents can also scroll back historically to see what homework has been set.

Sanctions

Evaluation / Reviews:

- Where issues with regard to the setting of homework are revealed as part of the monitoring process, SLT will need to have discussions with they're relevant staff and HOD, provide support where necessary to remedy the situation and instigate further monitoring if needed to check that the intervention has been effective.
- Homework reports will be checked on a weekly basis. These same reports are available for all staff to see and view anytime by clicking the homework reports button once logged in.
- Homework statistics and parental feedback / surveys should be carried out once every term. It is key, the results from these survey are shared and the findings that stems from them should be actioned.

Accessibility & Translation:

The Show My Homework product is dedicated to making this website accessible to people with disabilities. It is developed and maintained using World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) guidelines. Building on W3C guidelines Show My Homework has implemented a number of accessibility features, including:

- Allowing teachers to enable a high contrast version of the website
- Allowing teachers to disable the quiz timer

Homework can also be translated into a number of languages using Google Translate technology. This is not perfect, however will support students and parents.

Homework CPD:

CPD is available throughout the year on how to use Show My Homework. Please contact help@showmyhomework.co.uk to schedule a tutorial.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years or in the following circumstances:

- Changes in legislation and / or government guidance
- As a result of any other significant change or event
- In the event that the policy is determined not to be effective

If there are urgent concerns these should be raised with the Principal in the first instance for them to determine whether a review of the policy is required in advance of the review date.