

TARLETON ACADEMY

Homework Policy

Statement

At Tarleton Academy we value homework highly and consider it to be an essential part of students' learning. It is used to develop understanding of a subject or an idea, to reinforce work studied in class and perhaps most of all, to develop the habit in students of working and thinking for themselves.

Purposes

The purposes of homework are:

- to support the aims of the school in helping to raise student achievement and attainment;
- to encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, an essential skill for adult life;
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding;
- to extend school learning, for example through additional reading or research
- to enable students to devote time to particular demands such as GCSE course-work or project work; and
- To support the home/school relationship.

Principles

1. Suitable homework as set out in the Learning and Teaching Policy should be set for all students and in all subjects.
2. Homework topics should be planned for each subject
3. Teaching staff will direct students to record homework in their planner.
4. Each homework task should be capable of completion within a reasonable time limit.
5. The nature of homework changes from time to time. It might, for example, be something to learn for a test or a piece of coursework to be completed over several weeks, or a research assignment
6. Homework should increase in duration and complexity as students proceed through the school.
7. Homework should be marked/assessed in line with the school's Assessment Policy. Assessed work should be returned to students within two weeks
8. A homework time table will be provided for all year groups at the start of September
9. Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8, 9) as a guide approximately 35 minutes homework per subject per evening, Key Stage 4 (Years 10 /11) can expect approximately 40 minutes homework per subject
10. Students are responsible for managing their own homework

Teachers will:

Ensure that adequate time is given for students to write homework details. If this is left to the very end of the lesson insufficient time often leads to inadequate details of what is required being written in student diaries.

Set homework tasks that are differentiated and are appropriate to the needs of individuals

Mark homework and give feed back to students in a form that ensures the student is able to understand what is required to progress to the next level.

Ensure that they are familiar with the Homework section in the Learning and Teaching Policy

Ensure that they specify to students when homework should be given in to be marked

Students will ensure that they:

Copy accurately the homework details and note the date the work is due to be handed in.

Do their best with each piece of work.

If some of the homework is too difficult you should ask for help – from your teacher or parents or a fellow student.

Complete homework on time. It is likely that failure to complete homework will result in detention and/or extra work from the subject teacher or head of department. If this happens more than very occasionally parents will be informed and students will be put onto a homework report.

Parents are asked:

To take an active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done. This sustained, active interest can make a huge difference to the quality of work produced and their attitude towards homework and eventually their achievements in public examinations.

To check the homework details are entered properly in the student planners. Please sign it on a weekly basis.

To try to help your child to organise his or her time to their best advantage so that homework is not left to the last minute or even forgotten. It is often best to give children a short period to 'unwind' after the school day before they start their homework.

To aim to provide suitable quiet working conditions at home.

To take an active interest in your child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done. This sustained, active interest can make a huge difference to the quality of work produced and their attitude towards homework and eventually their achievements in public examinations.

To give help, if required, but please do not complete the work for your child.

To regulate the amount of time a child spends on a piece of work, not to let them get upset about a piece of work that he or she is finding difficult. Please use your judgement as to when to intervene and say that its time to stop working on a piece of homework. Please make a note in you son /daughters planner.

To inform the subject teacher, head of department or pastoral manager as soon as you are aware of a problem with your son or daughters homework. We all want what is best for the students. PLEASE tell us if there is a problem.

Implementation Guidelines

- Homework should be a standing agenda item for all department meetings.
- There should be a system of evaluation and sampling within departments
- Home work will be part of SLT monitoring and evaluation of departments
- Persistent non-performance should result in contact with parents by the subject teacher, head of department, pastoral manager.
- Departments should aim to have homework available on the web-site/ moodle.
- Parental concerns about homework should follow the route of subject teacher to head of department for the subject, Pastoral managers, SLT
- Staff will ensure that students are rewarded according to the school reward system

Framework for Implementation

Short-term aims (by January 2010):

- this document should follow consultation process via school council, staff, parents, department ambassadors, governors to enable the policy to be ratified by the governors;
- departments to review policy on marking and assessment of homework

Medium-term aims (by April 2010):

- school to raise profile of quality homework.
- homework, to be a standing item as part of Learning and Teaching on departmental agendas

Long-term aims (by September 2010):

- annual homework curriculum plan on moodle
- homework clubs to be implemented as part of extended schools agenda
- web-based homework support in place;
- homework principles fully implemented;
- review of this policy January 2011

The Governing Body will review this policy on an annual basis.

Adopted by the Governing Body

Date: 30th March 2010