



Homework Policy

2018-2019

Definition and Impact of Homework

Homework refers to tasks given to students by their teachers to be completed outside lessons. There are many forms of homework that include: reading, practising tasks previously taught in class, revision for exams and projects. At Heathermount we see homework as more than these traditional 'academic' tasks and therefore, where appropriate, other activities, such as social skills, practising calm plans will also be used.

In order to develop this policy, Heathermount School has researched the effectiveness of the impact of homework. According to Education Endowment Fund (EEF) the impact on learning differs for the Primary and Secondary sectors. For Primary, evidence suggests that schools whose students do homework tend to be successful schools. However, it is less clear, due to lack of evidence, that the homework is the reason why they are successful. For Secondary schools the impact of homework is consistently positive (leading to on average five months' additional progress). The quality of homework and how it is set has been highlighted as very important. There has been no evidence found of the impact of homework in special schools.

Scope of this Policy

At Heathermount School our students range from the age of 4 to 19 and therefore their curriculum needs widely differ. This policy will therefore cover the whole school but will have separate sections for our Early Years, Primary and Secondary phases that highlight the different needs.

The Early Years Phase

There will be no homework set for this phase of education, merely extending learning and social exercises sent home.

The Primary Phase

Purpose:

The main purpose of homework in Key Stages 1 & 2 is to reinforce the school's cohesive and creative approach of delivering Ruth Miskin's 'Read Write Inc' programme and extend reading. Subjects of homework sent home will differ and is dependent on the learning needs of the individual student. Other purposes include to reinforce class learning and to extend the knowledge of lesson topics/themes.

Recommended time allocation per day/week:

For Key Stage 1 the guide time is 15 to 30 minutes a week.
For Key Stage 2 the guide time is 30 to 45 minutes a week.

The school acknowledges that the set guide times are lower than the Government's recommended time allocations for mainstream schools. This is due to several factors that include daily travel times and the learning disability of our students.

Feedback to pupils and families on the quality of their work:

Feedback on homework is essential for an effective homework provision. Feedback will be provided in various forms that include verbal, written and presentation of certificates. The school's marking policy will be closely followed. Families will receive feedback through the weekly communication home, annual reviews and parents' consultation meetings.

The co-ordination and monitoring of homework:

The class teacher is responsible for the setting, marking and feedback of all homework. Teachers will work closely with the Primary Team and the school's senior leaders. The school will also have regular meetings to continue to monitor and develop effective homework tasks. Families will be consulted within the yearly Heathermount Questionnaire on the effectiveness of the school's homework provision.

If homework is not completed two weeks in a row then parents will be contacted to discuss the issue and recorded on our school management system. If unable to complete at home for some reason then sessions during the week will be freed up for homework club (life skills or topic). Homework non-completion/outstanding work/refusing to complete will also be monitored by the school's senior leadership team and may result in a leisure time homework.

The Secondary Phase

Purpose:

Learning at home is an essential part of good education. Regular homework is important as it gives students the opportunity to practise at home tasks covered in class, and helps students work towards improving important skills. It also helps young people become confident in their future learning. Most subjects will set a range of weekly, daily or project based tasks based on the need of the individual and the curriculum they are following.

Recommended time allocation per day/week:

The homework timetable for the secondary phase will be published in Term 1 every year.

- For Key Stage 3 the guide time is 30 minutes a night.
- For Key Stage 4 the guide time is 45 minutes a night.
- For 6th Form students the guide time is 60 minutes a night.

The school acknowledges that the set guide times are lower than the Government's recommended time allocations for mainstream schools. This is due to several factors including daily travel times and the learning disability of our students.

How Homework is set:

Using the published homework timetable, staff will set the relevant work. Students will write the tasks in the Heathermount Student Planner and will highlight when the homework is due.