

Middleton Technology Homework Policy

Rationale

Ofsted 2012 Framework are looking for - 'The extent to which teachers enable pupils to develop the skills to learn for themselves... including setting appropriate homework to develop their understanding.'

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 in the Homework club.

Homework enhances student 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 students 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.

Curriculum Area Homework Policy

All Departments have a homework policy, detailing:

1. When homework will be set.
2. How much homework should be set.
3. Types of homework used.
4. Place of homework in the scheme of work.

5. Department incentives.
6. Sanctions for unsatisfactory work.
7. How and by whom homework will be monitored.
8. Homework action plan following most recent detailed monitoring of homework.

Curriculum Area Development Plans may include homework as an area for action. It is good practice to have regular homework 'workshops' at Department meetings to evaluate, create and enhance specific homework tasks.

Expectations: How much and by whom?

Each curriculum area sets the following amount each week.

Key Stage 3	Time per week Y7/8 45 minutes per piece and Y9 60 minutes		
Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	1 (can be a 45 mins reading homework)	1(can be a 45 mins reading homework)	1(can be a 60 mins reading homework)
Maths	1	1	1
Science	1	1	1
Technology	1	1	1
History (Week one)	1 x 2 weeks	1 x 2 weeks	1 x 2 weeks
Geography (Week Two)	1 every 2 weeks	1 x 2 weeks	1 x 2 weeks
German	1 every 2 weeks	1 x 2 weeks	1 x 2 weeks
Drama and ICT	Half term Weeks 3 & 6	Half term Weeks 1 & 4	Half term Weeks 2 & 5
Art & Cultural Studs or LifeEd	Half term Weeks 2 & 5	Half term Weeks 3 & 6	Half term Weeks 1 & 4
Music and P.E.	Half Term weeks 1 & 4	Half Term weeks 2 & 5	Half Term weeks 3 & 6

Key Stage 4	Time per week 90 mins per piece (Can be work that covers more than 1 week or extra lessons)	
	Year 10	Year 11
English	1	1
Maths	1	1
Science	1	1
Technology	1	1
Option 1,2 and 3	1	1
Life Ed/Cultural	2x half term	2x half term

National average

Year 7 & 8	=	45 - 90 minutes a day
Year 9	=	60 - 120 minutes a day
Year 10 & 11	=	90 - 150 minutes a day

When will homework be set?

This is decided by each Curriculum Area inline with the school homework policy and timetable. Timetables for students are given to Form Tutors and they are placed in their journals.

Homework tasks

Homework can be:

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of course work assignments
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews

- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording

Sanctions

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the student's needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used. Teachers receive support from their Curriculum Leader. The sanctions are as follows:

1. Class teacher - discussion and negotiation with Student, imposition, informing parents via diary.
2. Curriculum Leader - discussion and negotiation with referred pupil, imposition, informing parents by diary. Letter to parents and detention if necessary.
3. Tutors - through weekly monitoring of diaries, identifying student with homework problems across several curriculum areas and refers to LPC. LPC discusses and negotiates with student, applies sanction or support where appropriate.
4. LPC - refers student to SLT Lead and/or Inclusion Manager in the case of a persistent offender.

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Credits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a Curriculum Area Letter or postcard may be sent home.

Responsibilities

The role of the Student

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into the homework diary.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. 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.
- To check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in journals by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set homework according to the timetable.
2. Provide the stimulus.
3. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
4. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
5. Mark and return all homework promptly.
6. Provide help and support.
7. Inform the Curriculum Leader, Form Tutor and LPC, as appropriate, when problems arise.

The role of homework club

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

The role of the Curriculum Leader

1. To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
2. To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area.

The role of the Assistant Head Lead for homework

1. To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
2. To develop classroom practice with the Curriculum Deputy to enhance homework across the school.
3. To review annually the school homework policy.
4. 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.

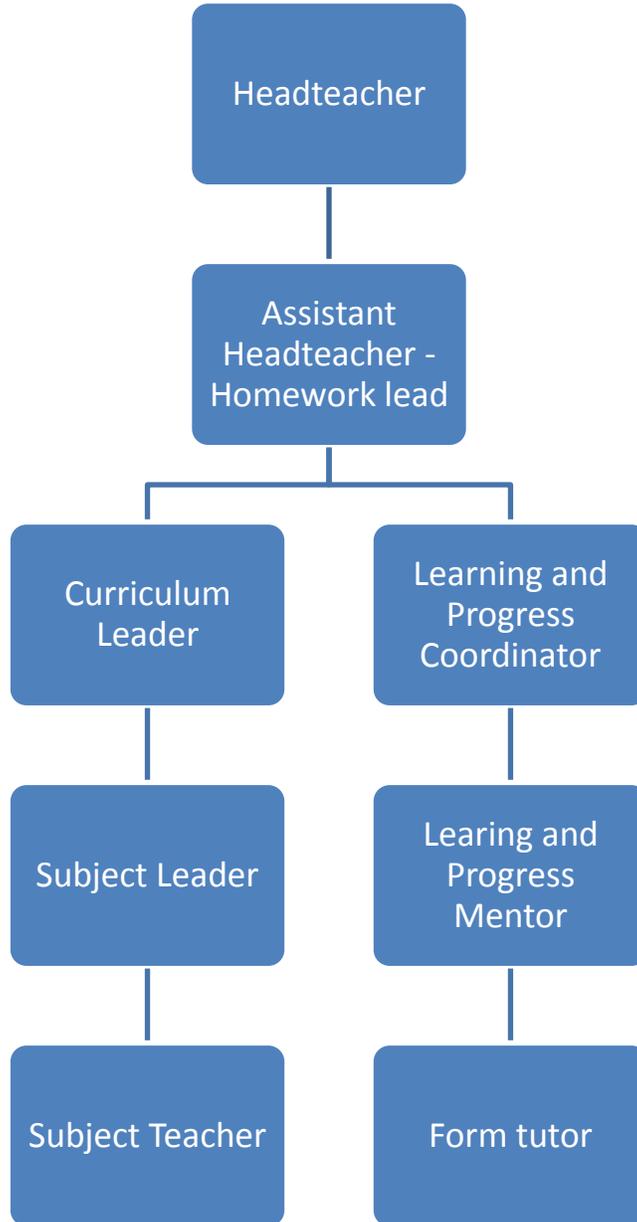
Parents can assist by:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free play is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
5. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
6. Signing the homework planner each week.

7. Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.

Parents guide to homework

Monitoring



Students

Homework journals will be checked by:

1. The form tutor (weekly)
2. The LPC (sampled every few weeks)
3. Member of the Senior Leadership Team (sampled each half term)

Subject Staff

1. Will keep a record of homework tasks as part of a lesson plan.
2. Make the record available to the Curriculum Leader and Subject Leader.

Curriculum and Subject Leader

1. Will sample homework records.
2. Will look at examples of homework and talk to students and staff according to monitoring programme using homework monitoring criteria.
3. Will evaluate and update action plan.

Assistant Head

1. Will sample homework records through Curriculum Area review at the same time as the marking sample once per half term.
2. Will sample examples of work and talk to pupils according to monitoring programme.
3. Will sample dairies for homework been recorded every 3 weeks.
4. Will review school policy annually.

Evaluation

- By SLT, co-ordinated by Assistant Head Lead for Homework.
- Whose needs are met?
- Whose needs are not being met and why?
- What are the problems that require short and long term solutions?
- What is the relationship of homework to the curriculum?
- How can policy and planning be more effective?

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