



Friends' School Lisburn

## Homework Policy FSL

### Rationale

Homework seeks to support pupils and give opportunities for them to consolidate and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding beyond the classroom. It takes account of the way pupils are taught and learn in the context of the Northern Ireland Key Stage 3 curriculum and the requirements of new specifications at both GCSE and A level. We take an evidence-informed approach to Learning and Teaching at Friends' School and the current research shows that the impact of setting appropriate homework is consistently positive. This policy aims to ensure that pupils are given the opportunity to develop specific skills, knowledge and understanding outside the classroom, without overburdening pupils or staff with homework and marking respectively.

### School Aims for Homework

*Homework should:*

- support the development of independent learning skills and study habits
- supplement and reinforce work done in school
- help pupils make progress in their learning

### Roles and Responsibilities

*All pupils should:*

- take responsibility for recording details of homework in their planners
- demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time completing homework
- complete all work set to the best of their ability
- present homework neatly
- hand homework in on time
- ensure homework set when out of class for sport, music lessons or other activities is completed.

*Parents/guardians should:*

- aim to provide a suitable place in which pupils can do their homework
- help their children to develop good study habits by encouraging a regular time for homework
- make it clear to pupils that they value homework
- expect deadlines to be met
- check the Homework Planner carefully

*Subject teachers should:*

- set regular homework which is purposeful and relevant
- clearly set out the aims of homeworks to pupils
- use Google Classroom as appropriate
- ensure that adequate time and resources are given to complete the homework
- follow up homework which has not been completed to a satisfactory standard
- ensure that written and/or verbal feedback is given, appropriate to the task set
- Mark and return all formal written homework within seven days (exceptions may apply for coursework and controlled assessment at GCSE and A Level)
- indicate, on average, how much time pupils should spend on homework
- keep appropriate records of homework

*Heads of Department should:*

- have a departmental homework policy to supplement the whole school policy, which reflects subject-specific homework requirements
- ensure that all departmental staff are implementing the homework policy consistently
- monitor the range of tasks set for homework, with the aim of ensuring that homework is purposeful and teacher marking is manageable

*Collect Teachers should:*

- communicate expectations around homework
- monitor that Daily Planners are being used effectively for organisation and recording of homework deadlines

*Year Teachers should:*

- monitor pupils across subjects and take action where appropriate
- inform parents/guardians of persistent issues regarding non-production of homework

## **Types of Homework**

Pupils at all stages are expected to take time each evening to review the work they have done in class and are encouraged to test themselves to check that it has been learned. Other homework may include:

- Consolidation of classwork
- Research tasks using ICT or other resources
- Reading to extend understanding & develop literacy skills
- Preparation for class tests
- Research, preparation, learning for controlled assessments/coursework
- Revision
- Essay writing
- Learning of spellings, vocabulary, and key terms, including for class tests
- Summarising of notes
- Exam question practice
- Preparation for class discussion
- Preparation of materials for practical sessions
- Organisation of notes and materials

- Knowledge retrieval
- Pre-lesson preparation

### **Frequency of Homework Setting**

- Whilst all departments will set regular homework, the frequency will vary, depending upon the nature of the subject and frequency of classes
- Careful mapping of homework within a SoW should avoid peaks and troughs in the volume of homework distributed
- Extended homeworks should not be set for the following day
- Homework not associated with a mock or exam should not be set in the run up to a mock or exam
- In the Junior school, homework should not be set over school holidays. There are times when homework may be set for pupils in Years 11 – 14 over the school holidays, but teachers should recognise that pupils also need a break during holiday time

### **Sanctions for non-completion of homework**

- Note made on SIMs
- Lunch time detention
- After school detention

### **Homework Guidelines:**

#### **KEY STAGE 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10)**

Pupils should spend, on average, 2 – 3 hours on homework per week. Pupils can expect to have more homework in English and Maths than in other subjects.

#### **KEY STAGE 4 (Years 11 and 12)**

Pupils should spend approximately 4 – 6 hours on homework per week. Revision and preparation for Controlled Assessments at certain times in the year will require further study at home.

#### **KEY STAGE 5 (Years 13 and 14)**

Pupils should spend approximately 9 – 10 hours on homework per week. This should be supplemented by their own wider reading and study.

Provision will be available for pupils who wish to study in school between 3.30 and 4.30.