



Homework Policy

At Cavendish School, we set all our pupils homework. We do this because we believe that it can help pupils to achieve their positive potential more fully than if we simply relied on study done during timetabled curriculum time under a teacher's immediate supervision.

Reasons for setting homework

More specifically, there are several reasons why we believe that we should set all pupils homework:

- It encourages and helps to develop independent study skills.
- It can strengthen and consolidate school learning.
- It permits appropriate extension of work done by pupils in lessons.
- It may be a requirement of particular courses (e.g. aspects of GCSE courseworks).
- It formalises for pupils the fact that learning can, should and does occur outside school as well as inside school.
- It permits some parental involvement in pupils' school-related work.

Features of good homework

If homework is to be effective in achieving its desired aims, it will ideally have the following features:

- Be clearly set and explained, written down and properly recorded in homework diaries.
- Be relevant and of interest to pupils.
- Be appropriately differentiated.
- Be carefully planned and appropriately integrated with classwork.
- Be structured and manageable. This is especially true with larger, longer tasks. These need to be broken down and recorded properly each week in the homework diary.
- State how long the homework should take (minimum and maximum time indicated).

The amount of homework set

The amount of homework set is in line with the most recent DCSF guidelines:

Years 7 and 8:

Each individual weekly homework set by subjects should, on average, be 30 minutes long. The following subjects set one homework each week:

- Art
- Humanities
- French
- ICT
- PHSE
- Science
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The following subjects set two homework's each week:

- English
- Maths

Year 9:

Each individual weekly homework set by subjects should, on average, be 40 minutes long. The following subjects set one homework each week:

- Art
- Humanities
- French
- ICT
- PHSE

The following subjects set two homework's each week:

- English
- Maths
- Science

Years 10 and 11:

Each GCSE subject receives an average weekly homework of one hour. This amount is likely to be higher in the lead up to assessments.

Setting Homework

The school does not impose a homework timetable on each day of the week. Homework can be set on the day that is most appropriate. Given this, it is imperative that no homework is ever set overnight. All homework set must have a deadline of at least two days.

- Homework should be clearly written down for pupils.
- All homework set must be recorded by pupils in their homework diaries.
- Larger homework tasks must be broken down and recorded weekly in the homework diary.
- Pupils must record in their homework diary the amount of time spent on each homework set.

Developing independent learning

In the first term in Year 7, a number of subjects may set a joint homework. The principal aim of this joint project is to develop important independent study skills for pupils. These will help them to be successful in all future home works and aid revision.

The Year 8 tutor programme and study skills sessions investigates pupils' learning styles. This is intended to help pupils to develop effective independent learning techniques.

Feedback on Homework

- The school's assessment policy indicates the nature of feedback that it is appropriate for staff to give on pupils' homework. (see Assessment Policy)
- Feedback should, wherever possible, be formative, indicating how improvement could be possible.
- Homework should be appropriately marked and returned to pupils within a reasonable time of completing work

Role of Parents/Carers:

As a general principle, the school seeks to work positively in partnership with all parents/carers to help to support the learning of all pupils.

Parents can help to ensure that homework is as effective as possible in various ways, such as:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful and suitable place in which pupils can do their homework.
- Make it clear to their children that they value homework and believe that it can help their children to make good progress.
- Encourage their children in their homework tasks.

- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are.
- Check regularly (at least weekly) with the tutor.
- Check regularly (at the end of each half term) that there are no pieces of outstanding home work.

Role of ICT

The school expects ICT to play an ever-greater role in homework. A range of homework tasks might involve some use of ICT. In particular, the school's website will contain a great deal of material to support homework tasks.

Most pupils have access at home to appropriate ICT to allow its use in homework. For those not in this position, pupils can access ICT on the school site in the following areas:

- ICT/Media suite
- Public library

Homework Support

The following forms of support are available to pupils in their homework tasks:

- The school library. Books, computers and study areas are available.
- The public library.
- ICT/Media suite
- Homework clubs.
- School website.

Cavendish School

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