

HOMEWORK POLICY	
Committee:	Curriculum
Approved by Governors:	9 March 2016
Date of next review:	March 2018
Responsible Officer:	Claire Coates

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

Reasons for setting homework:

- It gives the opportunity to practise, reinforce and extend work that is taught in class
- It can help teachers to assess learning done in class
- It helps pupils to develop good study habits so they are ready to grow as their cognitive capacities mature
- It fosters independent learning and responsible character traits including the ability to manage tasks
- It can increase motivation in school
- It gives parents and carers the opportunity to be more involved in their child's education
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Research shows that:

- Across five separate studies, the average pupil who did homework had a higher unit test score than the pupils not doing homework
- Studies that reported simple homework / achievement correlations showed that a stronger correlation existed in secondary than in primary schools
- A survey conducted by MetLife in 2007 found that 87% of parents saw that helping their child with homework was an opportunity for them to talk and spend time together
- Research by the Sutton Trust shows that the progress of 'disadvantaged' children is disproportionately enhanced by regular completion of judiciously-set homework

Features of good homework

In order for homework to be effective, Cambourne Village College staff will ensure that it is:

- Clearly set and explained, written down and properly recorded in homework diaries
- Relevant and designed to enhance learning for pupils
- Appropriately differentiated
- Carefully planned and appropriately integrated with classwork
- Structured and manageable. This is especially true with larger, longer tasks. These will be broken down and recorded properly each week in the homework diary
- Time-limited, with minimum and maximum times indicated
- Set on Cambourne-Learn so that it can be accessed by pupils, parents, and support staff

The amount of homework set

The exact time pupils are expected to spend on homework tasks may be influenced to some extent by the nature of the topic being studied, the set or grouping in which they are learning, and the proximity of tests or assessments. Further information about the nature of homework tasks in each subject can be found on the website in the appropriate year group parental handbook.

Years 7 and 8

The following subjects set an average of 30 minutes' homework every week; this may represent one piece of work, or the total of more than one shorter task:

English -- Pupils are also expected to read for five sessions of 20 minutes each week

Maths

Spanish, French and German

Science

The following subjects will usually set one piece of work per fortnightly timetable cycle. These tasks will vary in length, but will take, on average, 45 minutes to one hour to complete:

Art DT Geography History RPE

The following subjects set homework more occasionally, but on average once every three weeks. These tasks will take, on average, 30 minutes to complete:

Computer Science

Drama

Music

Departments will also suggest extension activities which pupils may choose to undertake independently, in addition to routine homework tasks, in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding. These can be found in the relevant parental handbook.

Year 9:

The following subjects set an average of 40 minutes' homework every week; this may represent one piece of work, or the total of more than one shorter task.

English -- Pupils are also expected to read for at least five sessions of 20 minutes each week.

Maths

Spanish, French and German

Science

The following subjects will usually set one piece of work per fortnightly timetable cycle. These tasks will vary in length, but will take, on average, 1 hour to complete:

Art DT Geography History RPE

The following subjects set homework more occasionally, but on average once every three weeks. These tasks will take, on average, 45 minutes to complete:

Drama

Computer Science

Music

Departments will also suggest extension activities which pupils may choose to undertake independently, in addition to routine homework tasks, in order to enhance their knowledge and understanding.

Years 10 and 11: Each GCSE subject sets an average weekly homework of one hour. Double Awards (e.g. Science) may accordingly set greater amounts of homework. Homework for BTEC subjects will be appropriate to the nature of the subject and qualification, and may involve consolidation, revision and research. This amount of homework in any subject 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 is set on the day that is most appropriate. Homework is therefore never set for the next day: all homework set has a deadline of at least two days.

Developing Independent Learning

All pupils are taught research and study skills by the Librarian in Year 7, and as part of an ongoing process throughout their studies.

Feedback on Homework

The school's assessment policy indicates the nature of feedback that it is appropriate for staff to give on pupils' homework, and its frequency.

Wherever possible, feedback is formative, indicating how improvement could be possible.

N.B. Pupils should make a copy of submitted coursework for any possible future reference.

Role of Parents and Carers

The College seeks to work positively in partnership with all parents and carers to help to support the learning of all pupils. Parents and carers can help to ensure that homework is as effective as possible in various ways, for example if they:

- 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 the pupil homework regularly and sign it every week.

Role of IT

The school expects IT to play an increasing role in homework. A range of homework tasks might involve some use of IT.

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

- School library
- Rooms within the IT suite, as advertised.

Homework Support

Homework Club runs in the Library every afternoon after school. This is voluntary; all pupils are free to attend and staff are present to support pupils with any tasks that they have been set.

Pupils may email staff to ask for support with homework. Any such requests must be:

- Polite and formally worded
- Sent at least two days before the homework is due in, in order to allow the teacher time to respond during the working day

When homework is not handed in on time, or is not completed to an acceptable standard, the College operates a rigorous process:

As part of the College Admissions process, all parents are asked to give permission for their child to stay on the same day after school to complete homework that has not been handed in that day.

If a pupil fails to complete homework to an acceptable standard, or does not bring it to the lesson by the deadline, *even if it has been done and left at home*, the pupil will be placed in Homework Support for one hour after school. A text message will be sent to the nominated parent to inform them of this arrangement. If the missing homework is done within the hour, the remaining time will be spent on completing further homework or independent study.

If a pupil fails to attend Homework Support when it has been given, the pupil will be required to attend Homework Support for one hour the next day, and will also be placed in Senior Leadership detention the next Friday for one hour. Parents will be emailed with details.

Pupils' attendance at Homework Support will be monitored and where there appears to be a persistent difficulty, the pupil may be placed on Homework Report.

We strongly encourage pupils to take responsibility for organising their homework, and believe pupils should take the consequences when they do not do this. If homework has been left at home and parents or carers wish to bring this to school during the day, this will be helpful for their child in the lesson, but the usual sanction will still apply, since not all pupils have parents or carers able or willing to do this.

The new Year 7 cohort is given time each year to adjust to the demands of secondary school homework, and the above regime will not be applied in the first half of their first term. Staff may make other arrangements during this period to support the building of strong homework practice.

Where parents have not given permission for their child to stay after school, sanctions equivalent in time to the above will be imposed in social time during the school day.

Problems with Homework

The College is aware that for some pupils, organising themselves and completing homework tasks can be very challenging. We will always try to ensure that homework is manageable and that it does not cause stress at home. Reasonable adjustment will be made for pupils with SEND, and parents and carers are urged to contact the College, in the first instance via the Form Tutor, if homework is ever causing distress, or if a pupil is spending time much in excess of that outlined above. We are always willing to discuss special arrangements for individual pupils, for example:

- Where a pupil has extensive sporting / drama / music commitments outside of school.
- Where a pupil might benefit from support from an organisation / time-management mentor
- Where a pupil might benefit from a programme of completing homework under supervision, on site after school
- Where a pupil is a Young Carer.

A 'Leniency List' is regularly updated and consulted by staff before a pupil is placed in homework support.

We are particularly keen that parents let us know *immediately* if pupils in Years 10 and 11 appear to be struggling with the workload of their examination courses, so that the situation can be monitored and managed.

We cannot guarantee that problems with homework will never arise, but we will always try to work with pupils and parents to find a solution.