



Homework Policy

Version 2.0

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Aims

At Driffield School and Sixth Form, our intention is to create a culture that promotes a love of learning; encouraging our students to enquire, question and develop as independent learners. The effective setting of homework is an essential element of any such culture.

Our homework policy is intended to establish the school's commitment to homework as an aid to student learning and continuous improvement. Homework can be any activity that is related to the school curriculum which students undertake in addition to their timetabled lessons. These activities can take many different forms including written tasks, exam practice, research, creative activities, reading or using web-based resources such as mymaths. All homework set is intended to help students to consolidate previous learning or prepare for future learning.

Expectations

- The amount of homework that is, or should be, set by teachers is often a matter of dispute and it is difficult to define exact amounts or time to be spent as this will vary according to topics, the speed at which the student works and the nature of the task.
- We expect teachers to take into account the varying needs of students when setting homework. By doing this, they will ensure that the homework is appropriate to the needs of each student to enable every student the chance to succeed.
- All teachers should ensure that clear instructions are given for all homework and that students understand the nature and purpose of the task.
- In addition to specific homework tasks set, students should be aware that as a basic requirement they should check their exercise books to ensure that classroom tasks have been completed and all teacher feedback has been responded to. Students should also read through their notes to ensure that they have understood the concepts covered in lessons. This ensures that a student always has some independent learning they can do at home.
- Parents can support the school by encouraging students to do independent reading (for example a novel or newspaper) as this is invaluable in promoting effective use of language, sentence construction and spelling, as well as improving general knowledge and generating intellectual curiosity.
- Homework tasks set by teachers are compulsory and the school's expectation is that all students will complete homework tasks on time and to the best of their ability. Non-completion of homework will result in a sanction in line with the school's Behaviour Policy.
- Students and parents should be aware that the completion of homework, and the student's attitude and commitment to it, will contribute to the student's overall academic record and form part of the formative assessment and school report.

Guidelines for Departments

- The school curriculum allocates more time to core subjects and homework activities should also reflect this. Therefore English, Maths and Science will occupy a higher proportion of students' independent learning than their other subjects.
- Core subjects will set a written or constructive homework task once a week at all key stages. The format of this will be decided by the department but the setting and deadline days will depend on the individual student's timetable.

- Where subjects have less timetable allocation than core subjects (in many cases this might be one period per week) these subjects will set homework when there is a specific learning purpose or an assessment focus.
- Feedback needs to be timely so that students can see that their efforts are acknowledged and worthwhile. This means that a pattern of homework and marking must be established by the department and the teacher so that time is allocated for written feedback and classroom follow-up where appropriate.
- It is not always appropriate for subjects to set written tasks (e.g. PE, art, drama or music) but students should be set tasks that enable them to practise skills or carry out research and teachers should check the completion of these set tasks and use to assess progress.

Student Planners

Every student is given a planner at the start of the school year and these are invaluable as an organisation tool for the students and as a method of communication between school and home. Students must record all homework that is set in their planner.

Tutors should make tutees aware of the importance of bringing planners to all lessons and classroom teachers must ensure all students have their planners open on their desks every lesson. Weekly planner checks will be carried out to monitor the level of use and that they are signed by parents and carers.

Within this context, parents are encouraged to:

- Support the school by emphasising the importance of homework
- Read and sign their child's planner weekly
- Ensure, as far as possible, that their child completes homework
- Provide, if possible, somewhere quiet to study

Monitoring and evaluation

- The monitoring of the setting of homework in departments is the responsibility of Heads of Department. Curriculum areas should agree and apply clear and consistent systems for setting high quality homework.
- Heads of House and Heads of Year will sample check planners regularly and report any issues raised by this to the relevant Head of Department who will follow these up with individual staff where necessary.