



HOME LEARNING POLICY: a Guide for Pupils and Parents

Home Learning- Ethos and Vision

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education."
- 1999 White Paper, *Excellence in Schools*

Penyrheol Comprehensive School believes that purposeful homework is an essential part of pupils' learning. Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum.

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. Homework and study clubs are run during after school sessions and focus on specific year groups:

Tuesday – Years 9 & 10

Wednesday – Year 11

Thursday – Years 7 & 8

These clubs will take place in the Library from 3- 4pm.

The Purpose of Home Learning

The purposes of home learning at Penyrheol Comprehensive School are to:

- Provide opportunities for pupils to work independently and develop study/revision skills
- Enable pupils to take some responsibility for learning
- Allow pupils to consolidate or extend classwork
- Further pupil understanding and raise standards of achievement
- Involve parents in pupils' education, for mutual benefits.

Home Learning- Quantity and Duration

The approximate quantity and duration of homework is expected to be:

| Year Group | Quantity of HW Tasks Per Evening | Duration of Homework Per Item Set |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 7 and 8 | 2 | 20-30 minutes per item set |
| 9 | 2-3 | 30-40 minutes per item set |

- Pupils only need to spend the expected amount of time on each homework task set.
- Pupils in Year 7 should be given simpler and more manageable pieces of homework during their first few weeks at the school.

- Year 10 and 11 pupils must adopt a more flexible approach to homework. One hour per subject per week is a guideline. If a formal written task is not set, this time should be spent studying and revising concepts covered during lessons.
- The amount of homework should gradually increase as pupils pass through the school.

Frequency of Home Learning Tasks at Key Stage Three

It is essential that homework tasks are meaningful and set in line with the departmental scheme of work. However, the expected frequency of homework should be as follows:

| Subject | Frequency of Homework |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Core Subjects | Once per Week |
| Foundation Subjects | Once per Fortnight |

Pupils may also be asked to undertake additional reading tasks in order to promote and extend their literacy skills.

The tasks set for homework could be:

- Written (e.g. consolidating or extending classwork)
- Research tasks
- Reading exercises
- Revision and assessment preparation
- Display activities

Planners

Homework planners are issued to all pupils at the start of the academic year. These will be carried at all times and will be visible on pupil desks during all lessons. Planners which are lost must be replaced and the cost borne by the pupil.

Subject teachers will ensure that homework tasks are detailed on the board and will monitor pupils in recording these tasks in their planners.

Form tutors will monitor the use of the planners on a regular basis and sign them. Year Heads and members of the Senior Management Team will also monitor the use of the planners on a regular basis.

Parents are asked to sign the diary each week and are invited to add any comment that they may wish to make.

Marking

Homework should be marked in accordance with school and departmental policy. In addition to this:

- Wherever appropriate, homework should be marked and returned promptly.
- Key aspects of homework should be corrected to support pupil progression.
- Wherever possible, written target/s should be given.
- Achievement points should be awarded for good quality and/or improved homework performance.

An indication of the standard of homework completion is recorded in pupil tracking and reports to parents.

Sanctions

- Sanctions are imposed in accordance with the whole school 'Rewards and Interventions Policy'.
- Where possible, pupils should complete homework task/s during a detention set for late or poor completion of homework.
- Year 7 and Year 10 pupils can also be recommended for the 'homework support club'.
- **Any pupil given detention** for late or poor quality homework will be recorded on the behaviour management SIMS system and thus achievement points are removed.
- Pupil planners can be used for two way home-school communication if concerns regarding homework exist.