



Donhead Preparatory School

Homework Policy

Statement on Homework

Donhead believes in the educational value of homework that is meaningful, interesting, challenging and relevant to the curriculum. However, we also understand the need for balance, given the range of recreational, family and cultural activities undertaken by young people today. Therefore, although making demands of the children in terms of our homework expectations, we are also cognisant of the need for flexibility in our homework requirements at certain times through the school year.

The Value of Homework

At Donhead we believe in the value of homework for various reasons:

- It helps pupils to recognize the link between good quality study habits and higher standards of achievement.
- There is a very close correlation between pupil success and parental involvement and support in their learning. In this respect, homework is the single, most effective way that parents can give practical support to their children's education.
- Homework teaches responsibility and self-discipline with regard to the pupil's own learning development.
- Homework develops skills of independent learning
- Homework permits appropriate extension of work done by pupils in lessons
- Homework reinforces skills and knowledge learnt at school
- Homework formalizes for pupils the fact that learning can, should and does occur outside school as well as inside school.
- Homework can help monitor teaching effectiveness and pupil progress
- Homework provides the teacher information about pupils' strengths and weaknesses.

Features of Good Homework

If homework is to be effective in achieving its desired aims, it needs to contain the following features:

- Be clearly set and explained, written down and properly recorded in homework diaries
- Be relevant and of interest to the pupils
- Be appropriately differentiated and suited to individual needs
- A range of homework tasks are set.

The responsibility of the Subject Teacher

- To explain to the pupil the purpose and importance of homework and its connection to school success.
- To set homework according to the designated homework timetable for each class and support and implement the Homework Policy in the classroom.

- To ensure that the homework is a carefully considered extension to classwork (but not always just completing work begun in the lesson) and is of appropriate length and difficulty for all pupils, particularly those with special educational needs.
- To provide homework that is clear, meaningful, purposeful and understood.
- To ensure that all pupils have adequate time to record homework in their diaries and to help them as necessary. It is good practice to write the homework on the board at the beginning of the lesson.
- To mark and return the homework promptly, in line with school and subject assessment policies.
- To give appropriate feedback. Feedback should, wherever possible, be formative, indicating how improvement could be possible.
- To take appropriate action if the homework is not completed without good reason or to a good standard.
- To communicate with parents, via the Homework Diary, if there are any concerns.

The responsibility of the Pupil

- To attempt the assignment independently before seeking help, as needed, from parents and teachers.
- To enter their homework in their diary and to ask for help if needed.
- To show their diary to their parents each evening
- To ensure that they give their homework sufficient time and effort.
- To complete the work as neatly as possible.
- To ensure the work is completed and handed in on time.

The responsibility of the Parent

- To uphold the school Homework Policy and to reiterate to the children the value of homework.
- To provide suitable facilities and such organizational support as is necessary for the work to be done.
- To provide appropriate help, encouragement and advice, but not to do it for them.
- To enforce the time allocation on the proviso that the time is used appropriately.
- To monitor the provision and completion of homework, via the Homework Diary, which will need to be signed weekly.
- To communicate with the school if they have any concerns about homework.

Time Allocation

Reception

- 10 minutes sound work each weekend
- 20 minutes Maths each weekend
- 10 minutes reading each night

PP1

- 15 minutes subject homework on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 10 minutes reading each night

PP2

- 20 minutes subject homework on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 10 minutes reading each night

LP1

- 20 minutes subject homework on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
- 10 minutes reasoning on Tuesday and Thursday

- 10 minutes reading each night

LP2

- 20 minutes subject homework daily
- 10 minutes basic skills daily
- 10 minutes reading each night

Prep

- 20 minutes subject homework
- 20 minutes basic skills in English and Maths
- 10 minutes reading each night

Elements

- 30 minutes subject homework
- 20 minutes basic skills in English and Maths
- 10 minutes reading each night

There will also be the requirement for all classes through the week to learn their weekly spellings.

Monitoring

- SLT are responsible for monitoring how homework is implemented by Subject Leaders.
- Subject Leaders are responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Homework Policy in their subject area.
- Form teachers should sign the Homework Diary on a weekly basis, checking that the diary has been completed fully over the last week.
- The SLT monitor that the policy is being followed on a termly basis.