



UNLOCKING YOUR
CHILD'S POTENTIAL

“Homework Policy”

Agreed by Governing Body: 21.01.15.

Revised 01.09.18



Rationale

The De Montfort School values the work students do both in school and at home. Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. The principle aim is to raise attainment. Homework contains an element of independent study in that it is not directly vided by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement and providing a variety of worthwhile learning experiences additional to those provided in school. Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. The benefits of doing homework must be instilled at an early age in all students, so that independent home study becomes routine and they understand the importance of life-long learning.

Aims

- Show progress and understanding
- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning
- Access resources not available in the classroom
- Develop research skills
- Read around a topic
- To take ownership and responsibility for their learning
- Have an opportunity to learn independently
- Provide feedback on the quality of teaching
- Enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline
- Learn by doing
- Complete work not suited to a classroom situation
- Engage parental support

Homework also enables us to create an additional channel for home-school communication.



Expectations:

Each curriculum area sets the following amount of homework each week. These timings are for guidance but are at the discretion of the subject teacher.

Years 6, 7, 8 – Per week unless indicated			
Subject	Year 6	Subject	Year 7 and Year 8
Reading	40 minutes	English Language	30 minutes
GPS	30 minutes	English Literature	30 minutes
Maths	40 minutes	Maths	30 minutes
In the lead up to SATs some changes to homework may be made.		Science	30 minutes per fortnight
		Geography	20 minutes
		History	20 minutes
		Modern Foreign Languages	30 minutes

Technology, Philosophy and Ethics and Performing Arts homework will be set as necessary.

Key Stage 4 - Per week unless indicated			
Subject	Year 9	Subject	Year 10 and Year 11
English Literature	30 minutes	English Literature	45 minutes
English Language	30 minutes	English Language	45 minutes
Maths	40 minutes	Maths	60 minutes
Science	40 minutes	Science	45 minutes x 3 per fortnight
		Computing or ICT	45 minutes per fortnight
		Philosophy & Ethics	45 minutes per fortnight
A	30 minutes	A	45 minutes
B	30 minutes	B	45 minutes
C	30 minutes	C	45 minutes
D	30 minutes	D	45 minutes

Key Stage 5 – at least 3 hours a week per subject.



Homework tasks

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of course work assignments
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording
- Revision

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be regularly praised in class. Stamps can be used to reward high quality homework, extra effort and prompt returns. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home.

Sanctions

When homework is not completed, teachers should support the student and ensure the tasks set meet their needs. Students will have an opportunity to complete missed homework but if after this it is not completed an after school tutor detention will be issued.

Responsibilities

All staff should encourage students to recognise the value of homework and its capacity to improve their learning.

The role of the student

- To listen to homework instructions in class
- To copy the instructions for the task and the deadline date into their planner
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline
- To ensure homework is labelled 'homework' and dated
- To attempt all work and give their best
- Present homework neatly
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties



The role of the Form Tutor

- Ensure students have a full, clear, up-to-date copy of their homework timetable
- To see that homework is being set and recorded
- To check that the planner is being signed by the parent/guardian
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents
- To support students with homework issues

The role of the Class Teacher

- Set homework according to the timetable, recording it on the on-line Homework system
- Provide homework that has a clear purpose and relevance to the curriculum and is differentiated appropriately
- Set homework that is stimulating and challenging
- Give full and comprehensive instructions
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met
- Mark and return all homework giving feedback and rewarding accordingly
- Provide help and support
- Inform the Head of Faculty, Tutor and Head of Learning, as appropriate, when problems arise

The role of Learning Support

To provide lunchtime opportunities for homework support.

The role of the Faculty Leader

- To ensure staff set homework as per the timetable
- To monitor and sample the quality of homework
- To ensure appropriate sanctions are issued for missing homework
- To look at examples of homework and talk to students and staff
- To evaluate the quality of homework

The role of the Head of Learning

To monitor that homework is being set and ask students about the quality and effectiveness of it.



The role of the Teaching and Learning Team

- To develop classroom practice to enhance the quality of homework across the school
- To work alongside the Heads of Faculty to support the quality and effectiveness of homework
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy and review annually
- Provide guidance for parents on homework

The role of the Parents

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing the value of homework through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. All homework is recorded on the school website on a Homework link. This is detailed each week and organised by year group. Details of the homework, due dates and any linked resources and websites will be available on the link.

Parents can assist by:

- Ensuring set homework is completed
- Providing a table, chair, appropriate equipment and a quiet place to work
- Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too. Try to make it a regular slot
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks
- Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school
- Signing the homework planner each week
- Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly

Monitoring

Evidence of homework tasks will be available on the school online Homework system. Homework diaries will be checked by:

- Parents (weekly signing of planner)
- The form tutor (weekly signing of planner)
- The Head of Learning

The Head of Faculty will monitor that homework has been set and check on the quality of homework provision.

Review of Policy: Sept 2019