

The Warriner School Homework Protocol

Aim

To raise standards of attainment for all students in Key Stage 3 (KS3), Key Stage 4 (KS4), and Key Stage 5 (KS5).

Objectives

To ensure that homework is relevant and contributes to the learning of students

To ensure that homework is set in an equitable way and marked in a way that allows students to make at least expected progress

To ensure that homework is valued by students and parents

This is a whole school initiative and must be followed by all staff setting homework tasks. There are, however, areas where departments have particular individual needs and in these cases this should be made clear in the Departmental Marking protocol.

Principles of homework

- Our school values homework and the role it plays in accelerating pupil progress.
- Homework tasks should be accessible to all students are able to access the task and so that all students are suitably challenged.
- Homework tasks should serve one or more of the following purposes:
 - I. to consolidate learning that takes place in school
 - II. to carry out research that will contribute to future learning
 - III. to develop independent learning skills
 - IV. to contribute to students' wider understanding of a subject
 - V. to undertake work that could not easily be done in school
- Homework tasks, once completed, should be assessed and feedback given to students on their work. Feedback must highlight areas of success and clearly signpost the next steps necessary for students to improve further.

Criteria for successful practice

At KS3

- Students will be set a minimum of 30 minutes homework every three lessons, per subject.
- Homework tasks may involve activities designed to reinforce learning, practise skills or to carry out preliminary work to be built on in lessons. They will also be used to develop revision skills.
- Homework tasks may sometimes take the form of extended pieces of work to be completed over a period of time. These projects should be broken down into weekly or fortnightly tasks. Formal assessment of these tasks should take place and feedback should be passed on to students. These tasks are used to support students in developing their time management skills.
- Homework tasks should never be set without a clear purpose and should always afford students sufficient time to complete them.
- Assessment takes the form of regular marking, end of topic tests and end of year examinations. All work will be returned to students within 2 weeks of being handed in. Our F-A-R Marking approach (Feedback-Action-Response) highlights areas where students have demonstrated a particular skill well and enables students to improve their work through the provision of clear action points.

At KS4

- Students will be set a minimum of 40 minutes homework every three lessons, per subject.
- Homework tasks set in Years 10 and 11 will vary according to particular subjects and as such individual department protocols should be consulted.
- Tasks may include activities similar to those set at KS3 but could also involve completing work for which there is insufficient time in lessons or contributing to coursework where this is permitted under exam board guidelines.
- Assessment takes the form of regular F-A-R marking, end of topic tests and end of year examinations. All work will be returned to students within 2 weeks of being handed in.

At KS5

- Students will be set a minimum of the equivalent of 4-5 hours homework per week per subject.
- Homework tasks will vary according to particular subjects and as such individual department protocols should be consulted.
- In addition to formal set tasks, students are expected to undertake background reading to enhance the learning taking place in school.
- Assessment takes the form of regular marking, end of topic tests and end of year examinations. All work will be returned to students within 2 weeks of being handed in. Feedback will highlight areas where students have demonstrated a particular skill well and signpost areas for development.

Students are encouraged to read both fiction and non-fiction literature and to take an interest in the world around them. This may be through reading newspapers or watching television news and documentary programmes.

Students should review their learning on a regular basis and parents are encouraged to play an active part in this by discussing their child(ren)'s work with them.

Monitoring and evaluation

The policy will be monitored by

- The Senior Leadership Team as part of the cycle of monitoring and evaluation of departments.
- All homework tasks will be uploaded onto "Show My Homework" so that they are fully visible to parents. Coverage is monitored fortnightly by SLT and any failings followed up with subject teachers and their line managers.
- Subject Leaders' monitoring of practice within their team and through subsequent line management
- Student and Parent questionnaires

Related policies and protocols

Departmental homework policies and protocols

Learning and Teaching

Assessment, Tracking, Target-setting and Reporting

Marking and Feedback

Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Curriculum Committee

Drafted: June 2010

Approved: 6th July 2010

Updated: May 2015

Date of next review: May 2017

Named person responsible: Headteacher