QUINTON HOUSE SCHOOL

Homework Policy

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1 General

1.1 Homework is an integral part of the learning process. Learning has to be seen as something that happens both in and out of the classroom, with and without the presence of a teacher. As a school we want to ensure that the homework pupils receive is worthwhile and helps them to develop the life-long skills of an effective learner. However, we are fully aware of the demands that homework can have on life outside school, particularly on our younger pupils.

1.2 The habit of independent study begins early in school, and sets patterns for Higher Education and the world of work.

1.3 Homework needs to have an educational value, and should not be set merely to keep pupils busy.

1.4 Homework serves to encourage independence; all homework set should be accessible to the pupils without the need for further help from others.

2 Types of homework

2.1 Homework activities need to be varied.

2.2 Homework needs to be within the capacity of the pupil. Differentiation is essential if a single task is not suited to all.

2.3 Homework can involve some or all of the following:

- consolidation of material learnt in class
- reinforcement of skills
- research
- preparation for future lessons
- repetition/drilling

2.4 In the Junior School, an important part of homework is the regular practice of multiplication tables and regular reading. This will not necessarily be explicitly set by the teacher, but all pupils and parents need to be aware of the expectation.

2.5 Project homework will be set in KS2 and KS3 to encourage time management, independence and research skills.

3 Length of Homework

3.1 We must always remember that some children are more able, quicker or more meticulous than others. A teacher needs to be precise when giving instructions as to what is expected and in terms of the time to be spent on the work. If, on occasion, the homework takes longer, then pupils should spend the required time to complete the work to the appropriate standard.

However, our pupils should not be required to exceed the timings below by too much, nor too often.

3.2 Pupils who choose to spend a longer time than necessary on a task should not be discouraged. Obviously if excessive time spent on homework affects sleep, involvement in extra-curricular activities or others aspects of home life, this needs to be addressed by the Form Tutor/Class Teacher and the parents.

3.3 Junior School:

Pupils in Nursery should be encouraged to share a book for about 10 minutes every day. This may take the form of the adult reading to the pupil, sharing a book together or the pupil reading to an adult.

Pupils in Reception should be encouraged to read to an adult at home every day for about 10 minutes. Pupils may be given writing tasks to help them with their phonics.

Pupils in Years 1-2 should be encouraged to read to an adult at home every day for about 15 minutes. Mathematics and spellings will be set weekly. Big Write preparation will be set weekly as well.

Pupils in Years 3-4 should be encouraged to read to an adult at home every day for about 15 minutes. In addition pupils will be set weekly homework for English, Mathematics and Science. The expectation is that each homework set by these subjects should take about 30 minutes to complete.

Pupils in Year 5 will be set two different types of homework.

- Weekly Homework
    - English, Mathematics and Science
    - The expectation is that each homework set by these subjects should take about 30 minutes to complete.
- Project Homework
    - Other subjects will be set in a rotation (1 per half term). The pupils will be set a project at the beginning of each half term so they can manage their time to ensure it is handed in by the deadline set by their teacher. Pupils will be given at least 4 weeks to complete the work.
    - The homework will be research based and should take about 4 hours to complete.
    - The projects will be structured so pupils have an element of choice in their work.

Pupils in Year 6 will be set two different types of homework.

- Weekly Homework
    - English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, French, German and Food Technology.
    - The expectation is that each homework set by these subjects should take about 30 minutes to complete.

- Project Homework
    - Art, RE, PE and Computing
    - These subjects will be set in a rotation (1 per half term up until the Summer Term). The pupils will be set the project at the beginning of each half term so they can manage their time to ensure it is handed in by the deadline set by their teacher. Pupils will be given at least 4 weeks to complete the work.
    - The homework will be research based and should take about 4 hours to complete.
    - The projects will be structured so pupils have an element of choice in their work.

3.4 Senior School:

Pupils in Years 7 – 8 will be set two different types of homework.

- Weekly Homework
    - English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, French, German and Food Technology.
    - The expectation is that each homework set by these subjects should take about 30 minutes to complete.
- Project Homework
    - DT, Art, RE, PE and Computing
    - These subjects will be set in a rotation (1 per half term). The pupils will be set the project at the beginning of each half term so they can manage their time to ensure it is handed in by the deadline set by their teacher. Pupils will be given at least 4 weeks to complete the work.
    - The homework will be research based and should take about 5 hours to complete.
    - The projects will be structured so pupils have an element of choice in their work.

Pupils in Year 9 will be set two different types of homework.

- Weekly Homework
    - English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, History, French, German and Food Technology.
    - The expectation is that each homework set by these subjects should take about 40 minutes to complete.
- Project Homework
    - Drama, Art, Music, PE and Computing

- These subjects will be set in a rotation (1 per half term). The pupils will be set the project at the beginning of each half term so they can manage their time to ensure it is handed in by the deadline set by their teacher. Pupils will be given at least 4 weeks to complete the work.
- The homework will be research based and should take about 5 hours to complete.
- The projects will be structured so pupils have an element of choice in their work.

Pupils in Years 10 – 11 will be set homework twice a week by each of their chosen GCSE subjects. The expectation is that each homework set should take about 45 minutes to complete.

Pupils in Years 12 – 13 will receive at least four hours of independent study per week per subject. This will include extended reading, preparation for lessons and written homework.

4 Parental involvement

4.1 Parents are encouraged to take an active interest in homework.

4.2 The school encourages parents to support pupils with homework, on the understanding that this is taken into account when it comes to assessment.

4.3 Parents of pupils in Nursery to Year 3 are expected to read with their children every day, and to help with the learning of tables and spellings.

4.4 Parents of pupils in Year 4 to Year 6 are expected to continue to hear their children read daily if advised so by the class teacher. Pupils are expected to continue to read as part of their homework programme; once they complete the school's scheme they become a 'free reader'.

4.5 Senior School parental involvement in the production of homework is less easy to prescribe. Parents are encouraged to check the Homework Diary and completion of set homework.

4.6 In the GCSE years, coursework for assessment may be part of homework. Parents are not permitted to help with this in any way (under the rules for GCSE).

5 Homework Diary

5.1 All children, from Year 2 onwards, keep a homework diary.

5.2 Subjects for homework should be written into the diary for the half term ahead. Form tutors are responsible for ensuring that this is done.

5.3 The diary is signed by the parent at the end of the weekend, and checked by Form Teacher/Tutor once a week (at a regular time).

5.4 The parent is signing to say that the homework has been done. In the Senior School, where more independence is expected, the signature proves that the pupil shows their diary to their parents.

5.5 The Form Teacher/Tutor is signing to acknowledge that the process has been followed correctly for the preceding week. If this system is not seen to be followed on three occasions, then a detention should be issued.

5.6 At their discretion, subject teachers may choose to add a comment, in the Homework Diary on the quality of work done, where it is felt that a direct communication with the parents would be useful.

5.7 When homework is set, the instructions should be written on the board, rather than dictated. In lesson planning, time needs to be allocated for the setting and recording of homework tasks.

6 Assessment

6.1 There is a need for all homework to be marked and recorded. Pupils must see that their homework has a value.

6.2 Every piece of work is marked and records kept of completion.

7 Homework at School

7.1 In families where it is not possible to collect a child at 3.45pm, there is a facility at both Senior and Junior School for children to do homework until 5:00pm.

7.2 The use of the homework room is a privilege, and this may be withdrawn if the privilege is abused. In both Senior and Junior School, a book is kept to record poor behaviour.

7.3 In the Junior School, younger pupils will be encouraged to read if they finish all set work.