

## Homework Policy

### Bishop Barrington School

#### THE PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is set to:-

- Encourage pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning,
- To consolidate, reinforce and extend the skills, knowledge and understanding developed in the classroom,
- To enable pupils to meet the demands of GCSE coursework assignments,
- To prepare pupils for school and public examinations.

#### THE SETTING AND MARKING OF HOMEWORK

- Homeworks should be set regularly for all pupils in each 10 – day cycle, weekly for core subjects and fortnightly for other subjects.
- Homeworks should be planned as an integral part of the lesson,
- Homeworks should have a clear purpose,
- Instructions for homework should be copied down accurately in planners, with clear deadlines for completion, by all pupils. All revision homeworks should be written in planners. Teachers need to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for this to be carried out,
- Homeworks should be marked as quickly as possible and returned to pupils with meaningful feedback in accordance with the whole school Assessment Policy,
- Class teachers and Form tutors should encourage and monitor pupils' effective use of planners.

#### HOMEWORK TASKS

A variety of tasks should be set for homework. Departments should discuss suitable homeworks. Some homeworks should be common across sets/classes in a year group.

Possible tasks might be:

- Investigations, interviews, listening practice or rehearsal,
- Research in a Public or school library, a visit or viewing,
- Reading, designing, essay writing,
- Learning, simple experiment, model – making,
- Projects, extended assignments/assessments, coursework, preparation for an activity.

Teachers should avoid setting homeworks that are finishing off tasks of work that should have been completed in the lesson.

Some homework may be extended over several weeks. Other pieces of homework may be needed for the next lesson,

Pupils should always indicate in their exercise books, and files, which are homework tasks, by writing the word 'Homework' in the margin and dating the work.

#### THE TIME TO BE SPENT ON HOMEWORK

The time needed for homework will vary, but DfEE guidelines recommend that:-

- Y7 and Y8 pupils spend 45 – 90 minutes a day on homework,
- Y9 pupils spend 1 – 2 hours a day on homework,
- Y10 and Y11 pupils spend 1½ - 2½ hours a day on homework.

## HOMEWORK AND STUDY SUPPORT

### a) The role of parents

Most pupils will complete their homework at home. Parents are, therefore, in a position to offer vital support and encouragement in this area. Parents can provide this support and encouragement by:

- Providing a suitable quiet space in which their son/daughter can work,
- Talking with their son/daughter about their homework, the standards they are achieving and the importance of carrying out homework tasks,
- Checking deadlines and helping their son/daughter manage their time successfully so that these deadlines are met,
- Praising their son/daughter for successful completion of homework.

The ways in which parents can support and encourage in the area of homework will be reviewed through:-

- The new Home – School partnership Agreement,
- The homework guide to parents,
- The parents' evening for incoming Year 7 pupils,
- Discussions at parents' evenings,
- The Parents' Forum.

### b) Homework Club.

The Study Centre is open at lunchtime.

### c) Extra study clubs

Many subject areas offer revision clubs and booster classes for pupils. They tend to operate after 3:20 p.m., or in the school holidays, and are by arrangement with the relevant subject staff.

### d) Mentoring

Year 11 pupils are mentored individually to help them plan homework and revision time. Specifically, they are assisted in planning to meet coursework deadlines and in planning revision time.

### e) Young Carers

Pupils who are young carers will receive additional support and concessions regarding homework completion.

## REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

- Pupils who have an excellent homework record will receive recognition through the school's reporting and reward system,

- Homework must be completed on time. When pupils fail to submit homework, parents will be contacted to ensure completion. If this fails, pupils will complete during lunchtime detentions,
- Subject teachers will involve Heads of Department where pupils persistently fail to complete homework,
- If necessary, Heads of Department will request the intervention of the Senior Leadership Team.

## MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Heads of Department are responsible for monitoring the quality, quantity, frequency and assessment of homework set in their subject area,
- Form tutors will also monitor relevant aspects of the homework policy, through weekly diary checks in form periods,
- Periodically, or when requested, senior leadership line managers will check that pupils have their diaries or planners with them in lessons, and that they are being used in accordance with the Homework Policy,
- SLT will be responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of the Homework Policy. Monitoring will include:
  - Scheduled half termly SLT scrutiny of sample of teacher planners, pupil planners and homework sampling.
  - Use of School Council pupil voice.
  - Scheduled Department Quality Assurance weeks.
  - Random sampling by the Study Support Co-ordinator (KH)
  - Scheduled SLT Line Manager review meeting with Head of Department.
- Heads of Department and SLT will review the Homework Policy annually. Parents may also be involved in such a review, for example, through the administration of a questionnaire and through discussions with parent governors and members of the Parents' Forum.

Policy approved by Governors: Autumn Term 2011

Policy review date: Autumn Term 2012