



## **PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **HOMEWORK POLICY**

#### **1. Rationale**

At Parkside Middle School we offer a rich and varied curriculum, designed to both broaden pupils' experiences and enhance their academic achievement. All teaching staff are aware of the importance of homework and the need to maintain consistency both of setting and marking of homework for the benefit of pupils. It is also important that regular feedback should go home so that parents/carers can see how well their child is progressing.

Whilst the teacher's main role is to facilitate engaging and stimulating lessons which are key to pupil progress, time should be built into lessons to provide feedback on homework and inform pupils of their next steps.

In addition, we recognise that school is not the only place where children learn. The experiences that children get at home, through clubs and family outings is of utmost value to their development as well-rounded young citizens. It is for this reason that our homework programme is designed to enhance children's learning experiences, rather than encroach on family time.

This policy statement has been produced on the basis of consultation with pupils, parents and staff. It is designed to provide a coherent framework from which subjects and teachers can develop a consistent and effective approach to homework taking into consideration students of all ages and levels of ability.

#### **2. Purpose of Homework**

- To provide an opportunity for parents to become involved in the academic development of their child;
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly with basic skills and the creative curriculum;
- To encourage and develop self-organisation and self-discipline;
- To exploit resources for learning, of all kinds, at home;
- To provide an enjoyable and purposeful supplement to class work;
- To extend school learning, for example, through additional reading;
- To encourage pupils as they get older to develop the confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.
- To give pupils a sense of pride and accomplishment in what they have achieved.

### **3. Structure of Homework**

Homework tasks should be set to reflect ongoing class work across the curriculum. The list below is not exhaustive.

Homework can take the form of:

- Reading on a daily basis (with parents or carers for insecure readers)
- Learning and practising spellings and mathematical skills and tables
- Completion of a task
- Reviewing, redrafting and completing a piece of work
- Preparation for classwork / presentation
- Research topics, projects and investigations

Where online homework is set, pupils who do not have access to a computer at home can be supported through the Homework Club that runs every day during lunchtimes.

#### **KS2**

Homework at Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6) will be limited to the two Core Subjects and total a maximum of 1½ hours per week. Core subjects are English (to include daily reading) and Maths. Some Science will be set when it is relevant and appropriate.

Teachers in KS2 are expected to ensure that homework is properly recorded in planners by pupils as they learn to organise themselves. Homework should be set at the beginning of the lesson in order for it to be given time to be checked by the teacher to ensure that it has been correctly written in. Parents/Carers are requested to check planners regularly, to ensure tasks etc. have been completed. Form Tutors and Curriculum Team members will monitor planners.

Humanities/Arts: Non-core homework will take the form of projects e.g. 3D modelling, research, writing task. A homework summary will be provided by the teacher at the beginning of each half term. Arts and Humanities will rotate to allow pupils to complete all tasks. Hand in dates will be detailed on the summary. The department issuing the homework will be expected to give further guidance to students to enable them to break the tasks into smaller parts.

#### **KS3**

Students in KS3 (Years 7 and 8) will be set one homework task per week in English, Maths and Science, and one homework task per fortnight in other subjects for a total of 3 - 4 hours per week. Some subjects such as PE may set homework less frequently.

The duration of each task should be approximately 25 minutes in Year 7 and 35 minutes in Year 8. Core subjects may receive more homework than what is stipulated where required.

Where a subject sets an extended task over several weeks (for example History), the expectation will be that the student will spend an average time per week as stated above.

Teachers in KS3 are expected to ensure that homework is properly recorded in planners by pupils. Homework should be set at the beginning of the lesson in order for it to be given time to be checked by the teacher to ensure that it has been correctly written in. Parents/Carers are requested to check planners regularly, to ensure tasks etc. have been completed. Form Tutors and Curriculum Team members will monitor planners.

## **5. Homework Timetable**

To ensure homework is purposeful and relevant, the school does not publish a prescriptive homework timetable. Teachers are expected to adhere to the arrangements described above. Wherever possible, teachers are encouraged to set homework on a regular day each week and to set homework allowing a minimum of one week for completion. This allows pupils and parents to plan a regular weekly time slot for homework to be completed if they so choose, and gives ample time for pupils to enquire about any misconceptions.

## **6. Marking of Homework**

Homework is marked regularly. Homework is marked against Milestones and Key Performance Indicators using the agreed guidelines laid out in the marking policy. In addition, where a project homework (or any homework requiring considerable effort is completed) pupils are recognised for their efforts and given clear feedback and rewards in line with the behaviour policy (see below).

## **7. Rewards and Sanctions**

At Parkside we firmly believe in celebrating success in all areas of school life, including homework. Rewards can be in the form of verbal praise, achievement points, notes home and subject certificates. In addition, we hold weekly celebration assemblies to share excellent work and achievements, and there are end-of-term raffles and reward trips to encourage and reinforce positive, polite behaviour.

If a pupil fails to complete a homework, the pupil will be given a behaviour point and be given a date by the teacher when the homework is to be completed by. Consistent failure to complete homework will lead to further sanctions in line with the school behaviour policy.

## **8. Homework Support**

Homework support can be found on the school website for individual subjects. In addition, a Homework Club runs every day during lunch time (12.30 -1pm). It is run by specialist English and Maths staff to support pupils with completing their homework.

If a pupil is struggling to complete a homework task at home, parents should write a note to the teacher in their child's planner explaining the situation. Often this can provide vital feedback to a teacher on whether pupils have understood and retained what they have learnt during lesson time.

Date of Policy: September 2022

Review date: September 2024

Headteacher.....

Chair of Governors.....