



PARKSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Dated: September 2022

Review date: September 2024

Headteacher.....

Chair of Governors.....



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 in the 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 utilize 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
- Accessing and completing work set on an online platform
- Reviewing, redrafting and completing a piece of work
- Preparation for classwork / presentation
- Research topics, projects and investigations
- Retrieval and consolidation tasks to help remember learning and move knowledge to the long-term memory

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.

Pupils should spend about 30 minutes on homework each week night. If no homework is set, pupils should be reading, practising spelling rules or times tables. Core subjects are English (to include daily reading) and Maths. Some Science will be set when it is relevant and appropriate.

Homework should be introduced by teachers to their classes at the beginning of the lesson as well as recorded on Bromcom to be accessed by parents and pupils at home.

Humanities/Arts: Humanities/Arts tasks (non-core) are set over a longer period. The pupils will be expected to organise their time. Check-ins are used to help pupils break down their learning

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.

Homework should be introduced by teachers to their classes at the beginning of the lesson as well as recorded on Bromcom to be accessed by parents and pupils at home.

4. 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.

As an exception to this, in KS3, to support pupils in organising their time effectively, a Homework Rota will be organised and supplied to staff. The aim of the rota is to ensure homework is evenly distributed between the subjects and therefore pupils are not overloaded.

Whilst teachers are encouraged to use this rota as a guide, homework may be set outside of the suggested dates in order to better support the curriculum and the pupils learning. In addition, following the pandemic, it may also be set to support pupils where there are gaps in knowledge or understanding with further reinforcement.

5. 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. Where a pupil has completed an exceptional piece of homework, their work should be celebrated using the strategies outlined below. To give instant feedback to pupils as well as manage the workloads of teaching staff, where appropriate, homework should be marked as a class with verbal feedback given.

6. 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 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 Behaviour for Learning and Positive Relationships Policy.

7. 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 teaching staff to support pupils with completing their homework.

If a pupil is struggling to complete a homework task at home, parents should contact the teacher 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.

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