

Homework Guide



Meole Brace School

Dec 2024

MEOLE BRACE SCHOOL **HOMEWORK POLICY**

Introduction

The DfE (Department for Education) has stated that:

'Well-organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement. It is important that the homework that pupils are set supports and complements the work they do in school and that the amount of homework pupils receive reflects the stage they are at in their schooling.'

The school also believes that a well-managed and purposeful homework programme helps children and young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning. Research evidence shows that students make better progress by completing homework.

The importance of homework

Homework has several benefits for students:

- It strengthens and consolidates learning from the classroom, which will ensure better progress is being made.
- It encourages independent learning skills, time management and working to set deadlines, which will create good habits for later life.
- It provides the opportunity for deeper level, creative and thoughtful responses to ideas covered in class.
- It provides the opportunity for a dialogue between students and parents/carers.
- It allows teachers to be able to devote more lesson time to collaborative study, practical work and discussion, if independent work can be completed outside the classroom.

Homework setting process

The school uses Go 4 Schools to set homework. Students will find that they have a homework task to complete and may need to follow links to any required document/websites in order to complete the work. It will be made clear in the task description if the work it is to be handed in physically in class or submitted via an online platform (for example, Student shared area, Teams, Mathswatch, eRevision etc)

When any piece of homework is set, the member of staff should refer to the **TED** rule, clearly stating for the pupils, what is the:

- **T**ask (and where it is to be completed)
- **E**xpected completion time
- **D**ue date

Types of homework tasks

Any learning activity that students are asked to do outside of normal lesson time can be regarded as homework. The homework task is related to work that students are doing in school, often as preparation, consolidation or follow-up.

The list below is not an exhaustive list of tasks that could be set for homework, but rather an indication of the type of tasks that are appropriate. There is an expectation that students would receive a variety of tasks over time:

- Preparation for future learning (such as reading ahead and summarising or planning tasks for future tasks).
- Wider reading tasks for enrichment or consolidation.
- Structured short-answer questions to consolidate learning in lessons.
- Choice of tasks with varying levels of challenge.
- Vocabulary or key-facts learning.
- Extended project work – either completed as individuals or collaboratively.
- Guided research with appropriate support at the start of the work, such as key websites or printed references.

- Timed essays or extended pieces of writing.
- Creative responses to the learning – such as pamphlets.
- Online homework tasks.
- Revision.
- Write-up of experiments or practical work.
- Rehearsal.
- Create a one page Knowledge Organiser, or revise from a Knowledge Organiser prepared by teacher. This will be seen more often prior to end of unit tests and exams.

Rewards

At Meole Brace School, we actively encourage a culture of recognition and reward. Completed homework should be acknowledged by the teacher and appropriate feedback given (this can take a variety of forms). Students should be praised for effort and house points should be awarded for timely completion of good homework as follows:

- Completion of homework (1 point)
- Homework submitted of a high quality/effort (2 points)

Failure to complete homework

The school will do everything that they can to enable and support students to complete homework. Pupils can see their teacher prior to submission date for support and should be given an opportunity to hand it in late if they miss the due date. If a child still does not submit their homework, they may then be set a detention with their teacher to complete the outstanding work. This will be under review and may be altered in the summer term.

Responsibilities

The Senior Leadership Team has overall responsibility for matters concerning home learning. They are assisted in this by the following:

Pupils should:

- Access homework through G4S, taking attention to TED (Task, Expected time, Due Date).
- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Complete homework on time.
- Alert their teachers if they are having difficulty in understanding or completing the task set and seek help in good time.
- Attend homework support clinics when necessary.

Parents/Guardians should:

- Download the G4S app to monitor homework and achievement/behaviour points.
- Familiarise themselves with homework expectations.
- Provide a peaceful and suitable place in which children can do their homework.
- Encourage and support pupils with their homework.
- Support the school's homework policy, including the sanctions used to deal with pupils who fail to complete homework to a satisfactory level.
- Contact school if problems exist e.g. too little, too much.

Additional support from school

Not all homework can be completed at home for all pupils. For some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is desirable to carry out the task at school.

In order to ensure that all pupils have the necessary support and access to complete homework tasks, we run a homework club on Monday and Wednesday in B2A from 3:15 - 4:15. Pupils can opt into attending this session if they require ICT access or help to complete homework

Additional information

Many students at our school are involved in extra-curricular activities and indeed this is encouraged. This means that students can struggle to find time to do both their activities and spend sufficient time on their homework which leads to extra stress, especially on the highly committed students. It is important that both parents and teachers encourage the students to seek support if they are finding it difficult to balance everything.

Your role in supporting your child's learning can be crucial. We encourage good home study habits and understand that good communications between home and school are important, especially on issues such as homework.

Appendix A has some information about how you can support your child at home with their homework

Regularity

Studies imply that there is an optimum amount of homework of between 1 and 2 hours per school day (slightly longer for older pupils), however the school does not set a rigid homework timetable or subjects, as we recognise that in order to add value to support learning, homework must come at the right time and place in a scheme of work.

To avoid pupils having a period of time with no homework, but then lots in one go, the amount and regularity of homework must be carefully structured.

KS3

Teachers should aim to set approximately 60 mins homework over 6 lessons in each subject. This equates to 10 mins homework per lesson and is on average just under 4 hours of homework per week across all subjects in KS3.

Each subject can use this 'guideline' to set how they best see fit. E.G - For each 6 lessons:

- 1 x 60 min task (one per 6 lessons)
- 2 x 30 mins tasks (one per 3 lessons)
- 3 x 20 min tasks (one per 2 lessons)
- 6 x 10 min tasks (each lesson)

KS4

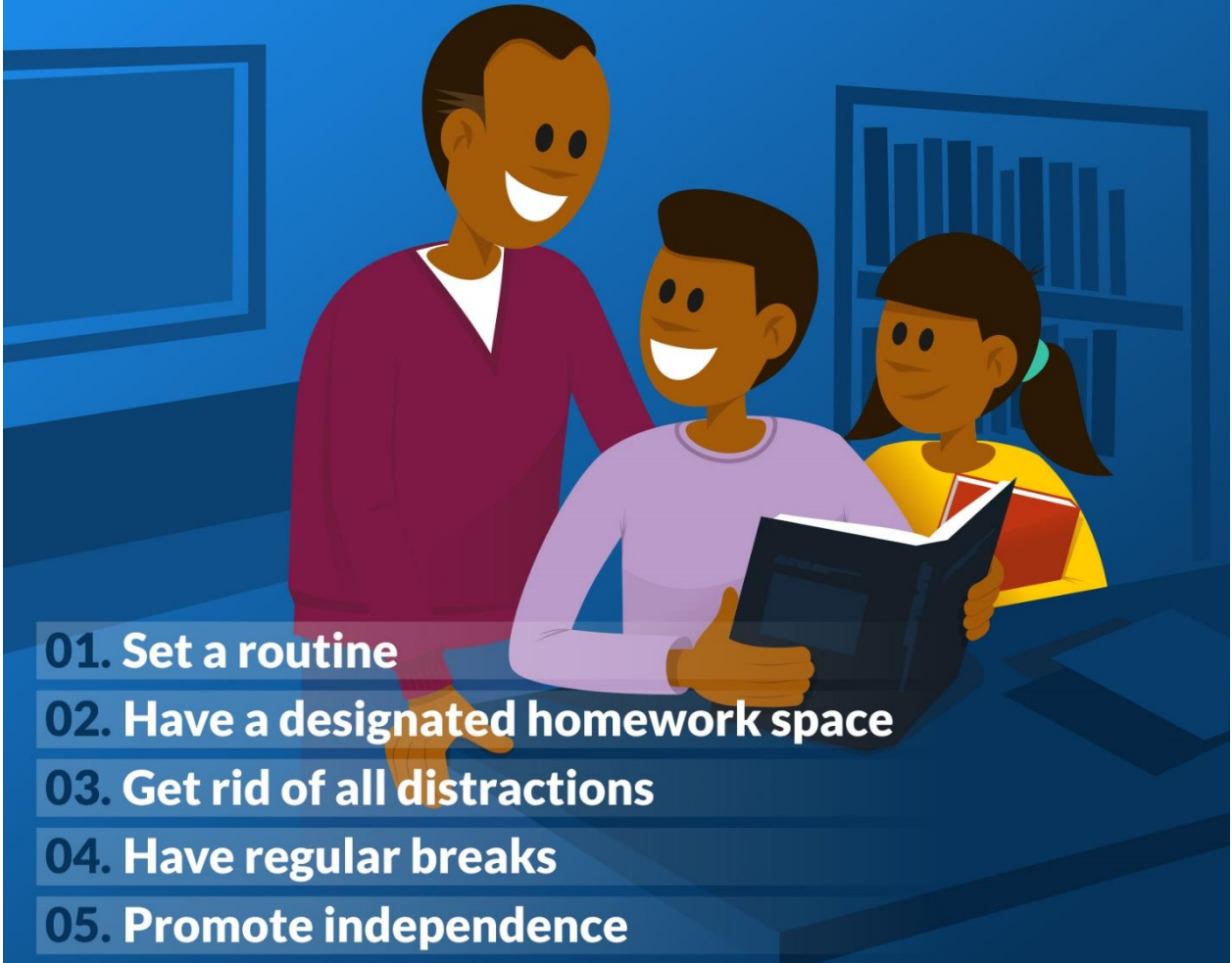
The amount should increase to approximately 30 mins homework per week for each subject. This equates to 4½ hours homework per week across all subjects in KS4. Again, each subject can use this 'guideline' to set how they best see fit.

*In the lead up to end of year mocks/exams, it is likely that homework tasks will be based more around revision activities rather than formal pieces of work expected to be submitted.

In appendix B, there is a table of how many lessons that a pupil has for each subject over a 2-week period, which is an indicator to the amount of homework that pupils should expect to receive in each year group for different subjects. Please remember, that subjects may set this homework in quantities which best suit the scheme of work.

10 ways to help your child with their homework

by @inner_drive | www.innerdrive.co.uk



- 01. Set a routine**
- 02. Have a designated homework space**
- 03. Get rid of all distractions**
- 04. Have regular breaks**
- 05. Promote independence**
- 06. Help your child organise their time**
- 07. Encourage your child to develop a growth mindset**
- 08. Be a role model**
- 09. Say “I am so proud of you!”**
- 10. Communicate your worries to their teacher**

1. Set a routine

Having a set time to do homework that works for both you and your child can make “homework time” go a lot more smoothly. Try and schedule this time in for when they are most alert and ready to learn. If possible, encourage your child to choose which time to do their homework themselves: by letting them have a say, it may make them feel more responsible and more motivated to complete it.

Once you have a set “homework” time, it is key to stick to it. A clear routine can help your child feel part of a predictable environment and it can soon become part of their normal daily routine. This would mean that they are less likely to dread and procrastinate finishing their work.

2. Have a designated homework space

Having a designated workspace to complete their homework can get your child into a working mindset and [improve their focus](#) when they are there. This could be in a separate room, or a table that is not being used for anything else.

Ensure that they have all the equipment they need before starting on their homework, as this could lead to distractions if they realise they need something after they have started their work. Also, ensure that the workspace is [clean and tidy](#) as this could also help boost their productivity. If you need more tips, we've previously written about what the ideal home learning environment looks like.

3. Get rid of all distractions

Nowadays, the main distractions for students tend to be their electronic devices, including [mobile phones](#).

Research has shown that schools which banned mobile phones experienced a significant increase in their students' grades. Therefore, while your child is doing their homework, try and remove their electronics away. This can allow them to get their homework done faster and to a higher standard.

4. Have regular breaks

Having regular, short breaks during homework time can allow your child to feel more attentive. If possible, exercising during these short breaks can be very useful (this can even be a quick dance break), as [this helps boost brain power](#).

5. Promote independence

Allow your child to take charge of their homework. [Research has shown](#) that students who did their homework by themselves ended up doing [10% better in exams](#) than those who did their homework with their parents helping them.

Step back whilst they do the homework and allow them to get things wrong. This way, their teacher will know that they are struggling with that area and can help them out. If they don't understand a question, encourage them to leave it and come back to it at the end.

Research also shows that helping your child learn self-management skills is also beneficial for their academic performance. This could include suggesting how long your child should spend on their homework and allowing them to record their total time spent on their homework. If your child is provided with the answers, let them self-mark. This would allow them to recognise their strengths and what they can work on next time.

Maximise your students' learning and achievement by getting parents & guardians involved in their mindset development.

6. Help your child organise their time

Organisation is a key skill for your child to learn and develop. If they are given many tasks to do, sit with them and ask them what they think the best way of dividing their time is. Give them suggestions, if there is another easier way. Then, make a plan and help them stick to it in order to complete all of their tasks.

7. Encourage your child to develop a Growth Mindset

During homework time, you may hear your child say “I don’t know how to do this”, or “I can’t do this”. This way of thinking is known as a fixed mindset, which means believing that their talents are set in stone.

The opposite, known as a growth mindset, revolves around the belief that you can improve your intelligence, ability and performance. As a parent, you can encourage your child to develop a growth mindset by adding the word “yet” at the end of these phrases when they say them. Adding this word suggests that they can still achieve what they want with some extra time and work.

If your child is still discouraged with their efforts, ask them: “What would you do differently next time?” After experiencing a setback, this can allow them to stop dwelling on the past but help them reflect and focus on how they can improve in the future.

For more tips on how to develop a growth mindset, [check out this blog](#).

8. Be a role model

Encourage your child to see you working on things during their homework, such as writing grocery lists or even talking about what you have done at the office that day. By seeing you also do work, it can motivate your child to work on their homework as well.

9. The most powerful sentence a parent can say: “I am so proud of you!”

[This simple phrase](#) has very powerful effects and can help your child feel encouraged. Often, children spend longer doing homework due to the [fear of failure](#). Using the phrase, “I’m so proud of you” can reduce this fear by letting your child know that they would always have your support.

In turn, this may give them more confidence and increase their self-esteem, allowing them to achieve more when doing their homework.

10. Communicate any worries you may have with their teacher

Let your concerns be heard! If you feel that your child is spending too long on their homework, or is struggling a lot with it, tell their teacher. The homework they set may have been too academically challenging for them, which may also reduce their confidence in the long term. Talking with their teacher may also allow your child to gain any extra support if needed.

Final thoughts

Getting homework done may be a struggle, especially when your child does not feel any motivation to do it. However, there are tons of ways to support your child – implementing these tips into your daily life can help homework time go a lot more smoothly. This in turn can support your child during their academic development.

Appendix B.**Year 7**

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)
Maths & English	7
Science	6
French	5
Technology, History & Geography	4
PE	4
Art, Drama, Music & Religious Studies	2
PDC	1
Total	50

Year 8

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)
Maths & English	7
Science & MFL	6
Technology & Geography	4
PE	4
History	3
Art, Drama, Music & Religious Studies	2
PDC	1
Total	50

Year 9

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)
Maths & English	7
Science and MFL	6
Technology & History	4
PE	4
Geography	3
Art, Drama, Music & Religious Studies	2
PDC	1
Total	50

Year 10

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)
English	8
Maths	7
Biology, Chemistry & Physics	10
Option Subjects (4)	5
PE	4
PDC	1
Total	50

Year 11

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)
English & Maths	8
Biology, Chemistry & Physics	9
Option Subjects (4)	5
PE	4
PDC	1
Total	50

In KS3, Physical Education may set occasional homework pieces.