

HOMWORK POLICY

1) Purpose of homework

Homework is defined as out-of-class tasks assigned to students as an extension or elaboration of classroom work. Homework is a valuable part of schooling and contributes toward building responsibility, self-discipline and lifelong learning habits.

Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Homework strengthens home-school links and reaffirms the role of parents and caregivers as partners in education. Homework provides parents and caregivers with insights into what is being taught in the classroom and the progress of their children.

Homework enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- Enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self- discipline.
- Take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

2) Setting homework

It is the intention of the Royal School staff to assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework assignments that reinforce classroom learning objectives. Homework should provide students with the opportunity to apply information they have learned, complete unfinished class assignments, and develop independence.

There are three types of homework: practice, preparation, and extension.

Practice assignments reinforce newly acquired skills.

Preparation assignments help students get ready for activities that will occur in the classroom.

Extension assignments are frequently long-term continuing projects that parallel class work. Students must apply previous learning to complete these assignments.

The amount of time that students are expected to spend on homework will depend upon the age, ability, home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations. It is important that students of all ages have opportunities for free time, leisure and physical activities outside of school.

Homework tasks should not take an excessive amount of time. This varies in relation to the student's year group. The following are the guidelines we follow, in total hours, for each year group:

Grade / Year	Homework time per week
Reception	Not applicable
Year 1	Not applicable
Year 2	20 minutes
Lower KS2 (Y3-Y4)	30 minutes
Upper KS2(Y5-Y6)	60 minutes
KS3 (Y7-Y9)	120 minutes
KS4 (Y10-Y11)	180 minutes
KS5 (Y12-Y13)	360+ minutes

3) Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Teachers:

- Ensure students and parents or caregivers are aware of the school's homework policy and each time about the student's homework.
- Assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning.
- Set a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student.
- Give clear instructions and make sure students understand the purpose.
- Mark homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to all students and parents or caregivers.
- Communicate with other teachers.
- Involve parents and contact them if a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops.
- Give students sufficient time to complete their homework, taking into account, as far as possible, competing home obligations, extracurricular activities and homework set by other teachers.

Responsibilities of Parents:

- Set a regular, uninterrupted period of study time each day.
- Establish a quiet, well-lit study area.
- Monitor student's organization and daily list of assignments in their homework diary.
- Encourage and support students to complete their tasks.
- Be supportive when the student gets frustrated with difficult assignments.

- Contact the teacher to stay well informed about the student's learning process.
- Assist teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set.
- Alert the school to any domestic or extracurricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected.

Responsibilities of Students:

- Write down assignments in the Student Diary.
- Be sure all assignments are clear; don't be afraid to ask questions if necessary.
- Set aside a regular time for studying.
- Find a quiet, well-lit study area.
- Work on homework independently.
- Produce quality work.
- Make sure assignments are done according to the given instructions and completed on time.

The role of the Form Tutor:

- To include homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded.
- To check that the diary is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.

4) Sanctions

A) When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the pupil and ensure the tasks set meet the pupil's needs.

B) If there is clear evidence that a sanction is required for the non completion of important homework then this is deemed a low level sanction and will involve posting a negative sanction on iSAMS which can be viewed by the student's parents.

C) In the case of repeated poor response to completing important homework the Form Tutor will meet with the student and call parents in to discuss concerns.