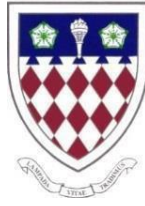


SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL



HOMework POLICY

HEADMISTRESS:	Mrs M K ANDERSON
LINK GOVERNOR:	Mrs D MULLEY
DATE AGREED:	October 2024
REVIEW FREQUENCY:	Biennial

Executive summary:

This document sets out the School's expectations and routines for homework. It has been written by the staff and students of Spalding High School and explains why we think that homework is important and how it can benefit learning and progress.

Related Policies:

Behaviour for Learning Policy
Attendance Policy
Teaching & Learning Policy
Marking and Feedback Guidelines
Marking for Literacy Guidelines

Chair of Governors

Date

Headmistress

Date

Section 1: The Importance and Purpose of Homework

- 1.1 According to John Hattie¹, homework at secondary level has an effect size of $d = 0.64$. An effect size of 0.2 is small, 0.4 is medium and 0.6 is large. Hattie argues that for any educational approach to be effective, it requires an effect size of above 0.4. On this basis, homework for secondary students has an 'excellent' effect.
- 1.2 Homework provides opportunities for extended practice: Giving students tasks that enable them to improve their fluency and confidence; tasks that support deeper and more fluent recall. Lesson time is not enough on its own and students need structured guidance to support their practice activities.
- 1.3 Homework develops students' capacity for independent learning: This includes giving students tasks that encourage them to explore subjects in self-directed and/ or creative ways, to develop a sense of responsibility for their own learning and to prepare for lessons so that teachers' input is optimised given the time constraints.
- 1.4 Homework should be fit for purpose to support student progress in that curriculum area. It should also have some/all of the following characteristics:
 - ✓ Build student confidence within a subject
 - ✓ Advance and build upon what is done in lessons
 - ✓ Consolidate knowledge and understanding
 - ✓ Extend learning
 - ✓ Be used to practise skills and techniques
 - ✓ Improve performance (e.g. revision for a test)
 - ✓ Develop independent learning skills
 - ✓ Enable pre-reading and preparation before a topic/text is covered in lessons
 - ✓ Complete tasks related to the specification content or assessment requirements of the course.

Section 2: Homework Schedules and Timetables (see Appendix 2)

- 2.1 Homework timetables are written for Years 7 and 8 by the Head of Year. They are given to students and sent home to parents outlining the requirements for each subject. Staff have access to the homework timetables stored on T: Drive.
- 2.2 Years 9-13 follow a broader homework schedule where students are given greater independence to organise their work; a schedule is produced by the Head of Year for staff to follow. It is given to students and sent home to parents outlining the requirements for each subject.
- 2.3 Staff are asked not to routinely set homework for the next day, however, on occasion a small task such as pre-reading or preparation may be required.
- 2.4 Homework timetables and schedules are given to students, shared with parents and on the school website and detail the amount and frequency of homework for each year group.

¹ John Hattie is a renowned education researcher from New Zealand, best known for his work on the effectiveness of various educational practices. He is a professor of education and the director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute at the University of Melbourne. In "Visible Learning," Hattie synthesized over 800 meta-analyses covering more than 50,000 studies and millions of students to determine the impact of different educational strategies on student learning outcomes. His work provides a comprehensive overview of the factors that contribute to effective teaching and learning.

- 2.5 In Years 7 and 8 pupils should be routinely spending about an hour per night on homework.
- 2.6 In Year 9 pupils should be routinely spending between an hour and an hour and a half per night on homework.
- 2.7 In Years 10 and 11 students should be routinely spending an hour and a half to two hours per night on homework.
- 2.8 In the Sixth Form, students should be routinely spending an hour and half on homework per subject, per week. However, given the increased demands and complexity of A Level study, sixth form students are also expected to spend a further three to four hours, per subject, per week, completing subject based prep, including revising, reviewing class notes, practising past exam papers and additional reading or research. Such an approach will ensure that sixth form students are well prepared, have a solid grasp of their subjects, and can perform confidently in their exams.
- 2.9 If parents feel that their child is spending more than these guideline times then they should discuss the matter with their child and if concerns continue, speak to the form tutor or Head of Year.
- 2.10 In the time leading to school and public examinations normal homework tasks are suspended and revision homework given instead.

Section 3: The School Planner

- 3.1 The School Planner is given to students every September. It is a very important document and remains the principle means of recording homework. It also has reference pages of usual information and top tips for time management and completing homework and revision effectively. It is also an important means of communication between home and school and so we encourage parents to review the contents with their child frequently and ensure that it is signed on a regular basis.

Section 4: Responsibility of the School

School will:

- 4.1 Ensure that homework timetables and schedules are constructed by the Head of Year and shared with students, parents/carers, and staff.
- 4.2 Set homework on a regular basis and in line with the published homework timetable (Years 7 and 8) or schedule (Years 9-13).
- 4.3 Set tasks that are suitable and achievable in the time allowed.
- 4.4 Ensure sufficient time is incorporated into the lesson for homework to be explained clearly and written down by students in their planners.
- 4.5 Ensure that planners are checked and signed regularly by Form Tutors.
- 4.6 Check and monitor that homework has been completed on time and to an appropriate standard and take action if not.

- 4.7 Ensure that homework tasks are not routinely set for completion by the next day.
- 4.8 Recognise excellent effort and reward accordingly.
- 4.9 Provide student support opportunities at school including private study periods and individual support where needed.
- 4.10 Support students who are finding it difficult to fulfil their homework requirements.
- 4.11 Involve parents/carers when we have concerns.
- 4.12 Ensure that subject concern forms and appropriate sanctions are given (starting at departmental level) where homework is repeatedly late or incomplete. Refer to Behaviour For Learning Policy.
- 4.13 Be aware of students who may need additional time, on occasion, to complete their homework.

Section 5: Responsibility of the pupil/student

Pupils/students will:

- 5.1 Record all homework and deadlines in their planner.
- 5.2 Ensure that they understand the task and if not, seek guidance and help from their teacher or tutor.
- 5.3 Ensure that they have the time and resources they need to complete the task and discuss with their teacher, in advance of the deadline, if there is a difficulty.
- 5.4 Do their homework to the best of their ability.
- 5.5 Hand homework in on time and in the correct format (e.g. handwritten, digital or printed copy).
- 5.6 Make every attempt to catch up on homework missed through absence.
- 5.7 Talk to their teacher or form tutor if homework is taking longer than the published timetable/schedule or if they are having difficulty with the task.
- 5.8 Respond to feedback and advice in order to make further progress.

Section 6: Responsibility of home

Parents/carers will:

- 6.1 Engage with their child about their homework, take an interest and offer support, where possible.
- 6.2 Try, wherever possible to ensure that their child has a suitable and quiet place to complete homework.
- 6.3 Check and sign the pupil/student planner on a regular basis.
- 6.4 Raise concerns with the form tutor or subject teacher if they are worried about their child's homework.

Appendix 1: Guidelines to staff

Staff have been given many opportunities to engage in the development of this policy and should view the setting of homework according to the protocols very carefully. We have agreed that homework for homework sake is not “good” homework and that we need to continue towards moderating our marking workload to an acceptable level. “Tick and Flick” marking of routine tasks is unlikely to impact positively on student progress. Not every task needs to be “deep marked”. Self and peer marking (with guidance) is positive and DIRT (Directed Individual Review Time) gives important opportunities for dialogue and reflection. This policy should be read in conjunction with the School’s Marking and Assessment procedures.

In developing this policy, we as a group of teachers, identified the following **Good quality homework definitions**:

Purpose: See Section 1 of the School Policy

Efficiency

- It should be set in line with homework timetables/ schedules
- Homework should have clear parameters: structured and timed, word counts or word limit
- There should be clear expectations for pupils and teachers
- Feedback opportunities should be set appropriate to the task and subject area
- Realistic expectations should be agreed with regard to marking, return and feedback

Ownership

- Students should see the value of the task
- Where appropriate, the flexibility for independent focus could be incorporated
- Consolidation or preparation for the next lesson with a clear purpose is appropriate
- Interim steps appropriate within a project within a time frame
- Some independent elements are appropriate e.g. revision, reviewing notes

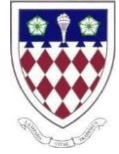
Competence

- Students should be able to complete homework independently and well
- It can be differentiated incorporating an element of choice
- Homework can be set up to involve parental support

Inspiring

- Homework relevant to outside world, contextualising learning opportunities
- Use of web programmes with instant feedback and support mechanisms built in e.g. My Maths
- Practical tasks within a structured framework.

**SPALDING HIGH SCHOOL
HOMEWORK SCHEDULE
2024 2025**



Year 7		
Week 1 and Week 2	Week 1	Week 2
English Maths Science RS 30 minutes once per week Languages (3 x 20 minutes over the two weeks)	ALL other subjects studied, 30 minutes once per fortnight. Please see individual Form timetables.	
Year 8		
Week 1 and Week 2	Week 1	Week 2
English Maths Science Latin RS 30 minutes once per week Languages 3 x 20 minutes over the two weeks	ALL other subjects studied, 40 minutes once per fortnight. Please see Individual Form timetables.	

Year 9	
Week 1 and Week 2	Week 1 and 2
English Maths Science Latin RS 40 minutes once per week Biology, Chemistry and Physics 20-30 minutes once per week Languages 3 x 30 minutes over the two weeks	ALL other subjects studied, 40 minutes once per fortnight.

Year 10 and Year 11
Each subject studied – one 40-minute piece per week Languages – 2 x 20 minutes per week

Sixth Form
Each subject studied – 90 minutes per subject, per week.

** Occasional homework may also be set for PSHCE and Careers

Homework Timetables Y7 2024 - 2025

Allocation per 2 week timetable: English, Maths, Science, RS 2 X 30mins, Language 3 X 20mins

Art, Computing, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Technology 1 X 30mins

7C									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Maths	Drama	Science	English	French	Maths	Science	Technology	French	English
French	Geography		RS	Art	History	Computing		Music	RS

7J									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Maths	English	Science	German	RS	Maths	Science	Technology	English	German
Geography	Music	Drama		Art	German	Computing		RS	History

7N									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Maths	English	Drama	Science	RS	Maths	English	Science	Computing	French
History	French	Technology		French		Geography	RS	Music	Art

7P									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Maths	Science	English	German	RS	Maths	English	German	Art	Science
German	History	Technology		Computing		Music	Geography	Drama	RS

7S									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
Maths	English	Science	RS	Drama	Maths	Art	English	Science	German
	Computing	Music	German	Geography	German	Technology		RS	History

In addition, Y7 students are expected to read a minimum of 6 books over the course of the year. Teachers of English and the Librarians recommend that students should be reading for a minimum of 10 minutes per day in order to achieve the expectations.

Homework Timetables Y8 2024 - 2025

Allocation per 2 week timetable: English, Maths, Science, RS* and Latin 2 X 30mins Language 3 X 20mins

Art, Computing, Drama, Geography, History, Music, Technology 1 X 40mins

*RS will not appear on the timetable as classes are mixed, instead it will be set by the individual class teacher.

Y8 students are expected to read a minimum of 6 books over the course of the year. Teachers of English and the Librarians recommend that students should be reading for a minimum of 10 minutes per day in order to achieve the expectations.

8C									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
French	Science	Maths	English	French	Tech	Science	Maths	English	French
Computing	Drama	Latin	Geography	History		Art	Latin		Music

8J									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
English	French	Maths	Latin	French	English	Science	Maths	Geography	French
Music	Science		Drama	Art	Tech	Latin	Computing	History	

8N									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
English	Science	Maths	German	Geography	German	Latin	Maths	Science	German
Art		Drama	Latin	History	English	Music		Computing	Tech

8P									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
English	German	Maths	Art	Geography	Science	German	Maths	German	Computing
	Science	Latin	Drama	Music	Latin	English	History		Tech

8S									
Mon 1	Tues 1	Weds 1	Thurs 1	Fri 1	Mon 2	Tues 2	Weds 2	Thurs 2	Fri 2
English	French	Maths	Latin	French	English	French	Maths	Science	Music
Geography	Tech	Science	History	Computing	Art	Drama		Latin	