

Homework Policy

SHERRARDSWOOD SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework is an important aspect of a pupil's life at Sherrardswood School and it serves a number of purposes:

- It allows practice and consolidation of work done in class
- It may act as preparation for future class work
- It provides opportunities for independent work
- It provides evidence for the teacher in evaluating the effectiveness of lessons
- It offers opportunities for pupil assessment
- It encourages pupils to plan and organise their time so that they develop good study habit and self-discipline
- It helps pupils to plan and organise their time so that they develop good study habits and self-discipline
- It helps a pupil to take responsibility for their own learning

At Sherrardswood School all pupils from Year 1 are expected to do homework regularly. Homework timetables are provided and tell pupils when homework will be set by their teachers and how long should be spent on each subject. Teachers will tell pupils when the homework is to be completed and pupils are responsible for handing this in on time.

Tasks appropriate to pupils' needs will be given and these will be assessed according to the school's Assessment and Marking Policy so that pupils will receive feedback on their work.

Homework comes in a variety of forms:

- tasks arising from the lesson may be written, reading and/or drawing;
- research – may be library, television or newspaper based and may involved data collection;
- preparation/planning – for experiments, debates, role-play, projects, dialogues
- Open ended tasks – where there may be no 'right answer';
- listening/recording;
- written work – may be note making, essay writing, set exercises or evaluation
- drawing;
- revision in preparation for tests and examination;
- practical tasks;
- learning;
- reading;
- practising and rehearsing.

We understand that not all pupils may have a quiet place in which to study at home or that sometimes pupils may wish to complete homework while still at school in order to free themselves for an evening activity. For these purposes we offer the facility of After School Care (Lockleys House) and Invigilated Homework (Mimram House). In Mimram House, this takes place in the designated room for an hour every day (4.00 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.) except Friday. Pupils may also use the library, which is open at 8.30 a.m. in the morning.

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The Library is supervised by the Librarians and is a quiet place in which to work at these times before and after school (closed temporarily Academic Year 2010-2011 pending building developments).

We recognise the value of pupils' work and we encourage and promote achievement through our system of rewards and praise.

However, there are sanctions when pupils fail to meet the standards required and expected:

- staff may request that poor quality homework be re-done;
- late homework may not be marked and the fact that it is late will be recorded on the pupil's work, together with the date and teacher's signature. Late homework will also be recorded in the teacher's mark book;
- if homework is not completed or handed in late, the pupil may be given a lunch-time detention. During this time, the pupil will be expected either to do the outstanding homework or complete appropriate work set by the teacher concerned;
- no excuses will be accepted for not attending a lunch-time detention, e.g. clubs, practices, forgotten locker keys, claims that the homework has already been done
- all detentions are recorded by form tutors;

Homework procedures are explained to parents at the start of year induction information evenings. A copy of this policy is on the school website.

- all members of staff are required to implement the Homework Policy as described.
- members of staff will supervise their homework lunch-time detentions in their own subject areas;

Any patterns of homework problems noted by a Class/Form Teacher will be referred to relevant staff, i.e. Key Stage Co-ordinator, Head of Subject, Pastoral Team Leader, for appropriate follow-up.

Throughout all of these stages parents will be kept fully informed through comments in the Pupil Planner and other appropriate channels.