



Glendower Preparatory School

Homework Policy

2016-2019

Reviewed: September 2016

Next Review: September 2019

HOMEWORK POLICY STATEMENT

PURPOSE AND AIMS

Homework is any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time either on their own or supported by parents or carers.

This is a whole school policy. We acknowledge that there are differences of approach between the age groups and, where appropriate, this is recorded in the policy.

The purpose of homework

We believe that homework has significant value:

- It supports much of the work covered in our lessons
- It consolidates, reinforces and extends skills and understanding
- It develops skills of independent learning and encourages pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own
- It starts to build a routine of study for successful lifelong learning for our pupils.

Homework draws from a wide variety of disciplines and subject skills. The careful monitoring of homework gives staff another means of recognising progress and indentifying weaknesses.

IMPLEMENTATION

Each pupil in the Upper School has a **Homework Diary** where the pupils carefully write the details of their task, this should be signed **daily** by a parent or carer when the pupil has completed the task in the suggested time allocation. The form teacher then checks this on the following day and countersigns. These homework/prep diaries are also used as a means of communicating messages from home to school re homework.

Homework may consist of:

- Completing a task started in class
- Learning facts / vocabulary
- Reading a specific passage for discussion in school
- Preparing for a test / exam
- Reviewing previous work
- Conducting some research

- Project work
- Preparing an oral presentation
- Reading

Homework may not necessarily always be a written task but completion is still important.

Homework tasks, as with work produced in the classroom, should be of a high standard. This work should be done by the pupil but parental involvement in terms of positive encouragement and some level of monitoring the pupil's work is desirable. A note in the Homework diary/Reading Record Book is always welcome should a parent / carer wish to make a comment.

For example, you might wish to convey that there is a specific reason why a pupil has not completed her homework or has found difficulty with the exercise and we always value this information.

ORGANISATION OF HOMEWORK

Homework is always given out in line with the **Homework Timetable** and your daughter will have a copy of this if in the Upper School.

NON-COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK

In the Upper School when homework has not been completed, appropriate action will be taken and this will be entirely dependent on individual circumstances.

PARENTS'/CARERS' ROLE IN HOMEWORK

- Please support your daughter (the support given will depend on age and ability)
- Encouragement to finish work and meet deadlines
- A note to the teacher should difficulties arise

If your daughter finishes her work too quickly or it is taking too long, please communicate this to the subject specific teacher or form teacher if in the Lower School. If your daughter works beyond the suggested time, please ask your daughter to **STOP** and please communicate this to the teacher.

It is difficult to set homework which will take the same amount of time for each girl to complete; inevitably there will be some girls who work at a slower or faster pace than the majority.

We feel that it is vitally important that your daughter has quality time in the evenings and at the weekend to spend with her family, engage with other children in play activities and also to pursue her own leisure activities; these all contribute to the development of the whole child and these are recognised and valuable learning and social experiences too.

Throughout the school **reading every day** is seen as a vital aspect of homework and, given its significant value in all areas of the curriculum, we highly recommend that pupils continue to read on a nightly basis both in term time and during the holidays. There is no better way to gain knowledge, a deeper understanding of the subjects studied at school and enjoyment of the world around them.

A similar approach is needed with Maths in terms of regular practice of all number bonds, multiplication and division facts and a ready recall of all sorts of other mathematical facts – for example, the identification of plane and solid shapes / angle names and their properties. Essentially, practise/revise whatever is appropriate at your daughter’s stage of learning as this will help with the vital laying of the necessary strong foundations which underpin all the tasks undertaken in her Maths syllabus. There is no doubt whatever that mathematical agility is vital and once secure, this aids understanding and problem solving in many respects.

HOW LONG SHOULD MY DAUGHTER SPEND ON HOMEWORK?

In the Lower School:

Year R	ongoing phonics tasks with no time limits.
Year 1	spelling/sentences (10 and 3) set Fri, returned Tues
Year 2	spellings each evening (5 mins) plus core subject task set Fri, returned Tuesday (no more than 20-30 minutes)

In the Upper School:

Year 3

To aid transition from the Lower to the Upper School, the amount of homework set across the academic year, may vary according to the needs of individual children and the year group. Initially, in the autumn term the girls will be given an optional creative task on two separate days of the week. The aim is to spark the girls’ interest and promote their imaginative and creative thinking and use of initiative. Since this task is optional, anyone

who chooses not to complete it will not be missing out on any core learning. For the remaining three days, the girls will receive one of either spelling, maths or an English task to complete at home. Pupils should not spend more than 20 minutes on homework on any one night in Year 3.

Year 4-6 inclusive

For the remaining year groups in the Upper School, the following schedule applies:

Y4	For Eng / Maths / Sci: 2 x 20 mins / 15 mins for all other subjects
Y5	For Eng / Maths / Sci: 2 x 30 mins / 20 mins for all other subjects
Y6	For Eng / Maths / Sci: 2 x 30 mins / 20 mins for all other subjects

Reading and Maths – as stated above – both form an important part of our approach to homework for all of our pupils.

HOLIDAY HOMEWORK

This is only given to pupils in **Y5 and 6** in preparation for senior school entry; the only exception is in Science as this is a content based subject and work over holiday periods may well be given to **Y4**. Otherwise, no additional homework is set for any holiday period.

IN THE EVENT OF A PUPIL BEING ILL?

If a child is at home and ill, we cannot supply the Prep as this is based on the work covered in class and attendance at the class would have been vital. If a pupil, for example, has an illness and she is not allowed to attend school on the doctor's instructions, we can send suitable work home though it may not be exactly what is being taught at school.

The policy will be next reviewed in September 2019.