



WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Home Learning Policy

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For review September 2018



WESTBOURNE ACADEMY

HOME LEARNING

What should be the purpose of home learning?

- To reinforce/embed classroom learning.
- To extend classroom learning.
- To encourage students to develop independent learning, organisation and research skills.
- To encourage greater parental participation in student learning.

The following tasks should not be classed as home learning.

- Completing tasks/activities from a lesson.
- Finding and bringing in objects for a lesson.
- Revision, unless there is a structured activity, task to complete.

How much time should students spend on home learning per week?

- This will depend on the amount of curriculum time within a subject. The minimum guidelines are outlined below for all subjects studied.
- The latest research suggests that more than 60 minutes per evening starts to lose its impact.
- It is expected that any home learning set will allow at least **3 days for completion** to allow students an opportunity to contact their teacher to discuss anything they are uncertain about and to organise their time.

Key Stage 3	English, Maths, MFL and Science	Geography, History, DT,	Drama, Music, Art, PE, Religious Studies, Computing
Minimum Requirement	At least 1 hour per fortnight	At least 30 minutes per fortnight	1 hour per half term (Note: This could be split e.g. 2X30 mins etc.)

Key Stage 4	English Maths and Science	All other subjects
Minimum Requirement	At least 1 hour per week	At least 1 hour a fortnight

Why are we not using a home learning timetable?

- A significant reason for setting inappropriate home learning is that a timetable forces staff to set an activity even when it does not link/ seem relevant with learning in the classroom.
- Allowing staff the flexibility should help with more meaningful home learning being set.
- Staff should also be able to manage their own marking load more effectively to ensure timely feedback.

How will home learning be administered?

ALL HOME LEARNING TASKS MUST BE RECORDED ON SHOWMYHOMEWORK (rebranded in 2017 Satchel):

- Staff to record the activity, deadline and attach any relevant sheets/ website links. (There is the facility to bring in feedback from staff should we wish to in the future).
- Students to have a digital means of finding out what home learning has been set and to be able to complete online or upload tasks. This can be accessed online and through an app on smart devices.

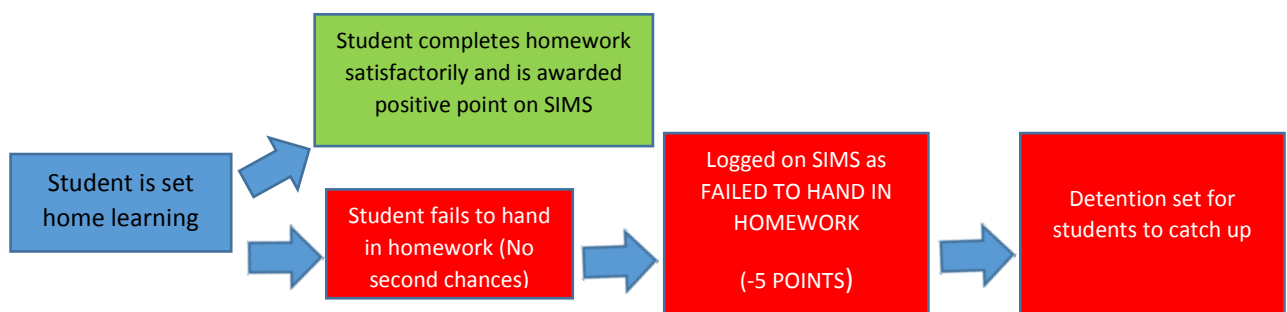
- Parents to have a digital means of checking their child’s home learning and being able to support/monitor. The system will also outline whether the task has been completed.
- Team Leaders being able to monitor the quality/quantity of home learning set across their team in an easy format.

How do we encourage students to complete home learning?

- Students can easily login to Showmyhomework. If they login through the academy website link, they will be able to use the same login details that they have for using the academy computers.
- Staff need to ensure that students get timely feedback on their home learning within one week. If not what was the point of completion? This may be through peer assessment or teacher led.
- Students can be rewarded through positive points for successful completion or parental contact through postcards.
- Subject leaders for each subject will monitor the quality and quantity of home learning to ensure that it follows the principles of this policy.
- Class teachers are expected to record on SIMS every instance where home learning is not completed and contact home if students persistently fail to complete home learning to the best of their ability.
- Form tutors will monitor homework completion on a weekly basis. They will provide support for students in tutor sessions and make parents aware of any issues. Students who are identified as requiring further homework support will be identified on a regular basis and will be notified of further interventions.

What happens if students do not complete their home learning?

- It is understood that we need meaningful rewards and sanctions attached to the completion of home learning tasks. From September 2017, we will be setting centralised detentions for students who fail to complete home learning tasks which will usually take place the following evening and will require students to catch up the tasks they have failed to complete. **This makes logging of home learning and its completion even more imperative.** We will continue to evaluate the progress made to ensure a sustainable system is in place for dealing with persistent non completion.



- If we follow the steps above, then home learning should be meaningful for students and parents will be clear about the nature of the home learning and whether it has been completed.
- Student school reports will show the number of occasions they have failed to hand in homework.

What further support will we put in place?

- Parental meetings with tutors should cover home learning and ensure parents know how to log in and monitor home learning.
- Parent and student support evenings through the year to help understanding of expectations of home learning.

- The 2 tutors in tutor groups will monitor home learning completion weekly. Students may complete some tasks in tutor or they might get support from an older student within the group. They may also provide IT support for those who have not got internet access at home.