

# TIBSHELF COMMUNITY SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Ratified: May 2023

(Tibshelf Policy)



## Rationale

At Tibshelf Community School, we recognise that homework plays an integral role in the education of our students. It enhances learning, improves attainment, develops organisational skills, and promotes independent learning. Home learning reinforces the educational process and supports good habits that are essential for examination and lifelong learning.

***'Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education'***

The Education Endowment Fund states in its research that regular setting of meaningful homework tasks can result in additional progress of up to 5 months for secondary students. Homework is learning set by the school outside of the timetabled curriculum hours. This can be completed at home, at school in support sessions, break times, lunch times or after school in the library.

The whole school Homework policy provides a framework within which departments can develop their own policies tailored to their subject specific circumstances and needs whilst following the principles set out in this policy.

## Principles

- To provide opportunities to support and reinforce learning
- To allow for practice and consolidation of work done in class
- To prepare for future assessment
- To provide further formative assessment opportunities
- To encourage pupils to take some responsibility for their learning
- To develop good study habits and routines
- To provide teachers with the evidence towards evaluation of teaching and learning, progress, and next steps.
- To provide parents with an opportunity to support and encourage their child, for them to become more active parents in their child's journey through school.
- To provide students with the opportunity to develop their interests in a subject beyond the confines of the classroom

## Responsibilities

All students should

- Demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the tasks set
- Listen to the instructions and ensure comprehension
- It is the student's responsibility to inform the class teacher of any difficulties at the earliest opportunity
- Complete all work set to the best of their ability
- Present homework appropriately, if completed in workbooks this must be clearly identifiable by labelling the piece of work as Homework.
- Hand work in on time

All teaching staff should

- Be careful to ensure that adequate time is given to complete the homework, which allows students to seek assistance before the deadline if required.
- Set relevant and meaningful tasks which have a clear criterion, are specific and do not disadvantage students (i.e., by requiring a range of resources)
- Record any homework related issues appropriately and discuss these with the students and the head of faculty.
- Students will receive feedback on homework where possible to do so, for example most subject areas use online platforms which generate feedback automatically. In the instance that an online platform is not used then it will be at the discretion of the class teacher as to what feedback is appropriate and meaningful for the task set.
- Praise and encourage students who have a good work ethos and complete homework well by utilising the rewards system.



The role of the parent/ carer is to:

- Have regular discussions with students about homework and deadlines.
- Aim to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which students can do their homework or help students attend other places where homework can be done, such as the library.
- Make it clear to students that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress.
- Encourage students and praise them when they have completed homework.

Faculty leaders will ensure

- Homework tasks are being consistently delivered by all faculty staff.
- Class teachers have the responsibility to set homework as per the agreed subject structure, faculty leaders will monitor the effectiveness of the homework tasks throughout the QA process (Student voice / Book scrutiny)
- Homework tasks are clearly evident in schemes of work for staff to follow. Home learning tasks should be effectively embedded into sequences of learning to stretch, challenge, and embed knowledge that students have learnt in the classroom.

## **Allocation of Homework**

### **Key Stage 3**

At KS3 homework will be set every week for core subjects, and for the remaining subjects which include Ebacc at least twice per half term, with other subjects where appropriate. Students will be given a minimum of three days to complete the tasks set.

Students in KS3 may be required to:

- Research a topic and find new information
- Present home learning to the class during lessons
- Access online learning platforms
- Revise for a test
- Multiple choice questions to identify misconceptions
- Independent projects which may require a longer deadline for submission, these might be broken up into smaller tasks but will require organisation so that the deadline is met.
- The learning of key knowledge or vocabulary to support subject specific literacy


### **Key Stage 4**

At KS4, homework tasks will be approximately 60 minutes in length and will be set every week for each subject. The expectation is that students will be given a minimum of three nights to complete the work set.

Homework tasks set in KS4 will mainly focus on:

- Retrieval practice
- Completing past exam papers / questions
- Coursework and preparation for controlled exams.
- Revision for a test (e.g., producing flash cards, posters, placements)
- Access online learning platforms
- Reading comprehension tasks to reinforce what has already been taught

No new material should be set as homework.





## Process for setting homework

- Teachers will provide clear deadlines for completion of home learning tasks on the day the task is set.
- All homework tasks will be documented in a student's planner on the day that the homework is set and will include the due date.
- Some homework tasks will need to be completed over a short period of time, at other times, homework will be set over an extended period, but any due dates will be communicated via the students documenting the dates in their planner.
- All faculties are encouraged to reward students for meeting expectations when completing home learning tasks. Any reward will be in line with the school's rewards policy, which might be acknowledged via positives on Arbor, praise postcards or phone calls home.

## Resources and Support

Not all homework is completed at home, in fact for some students who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks that require resources (books, software, equipment) which might be more readily available at school it might be more desirable to complete those tasks within school.

If a student desires to complete the homework tasks at school, then the following support is available:

- The learning resource centre (Library) is available at break and lunchtimes.
- Year 11 Intervention timetable is available and communicated to parents at the beginning of the academic year.
- Homework club is available in the LRC from 3pm – 4pm each day and will be supervised by the Literacy Resource Manager each evening.

Where homework is not completed, we aim to identify the reason for this and provide support rather than automatic sanctions. The class teacher will seek to identify the barriers to completing homework in the first instance before possibly:

- Allocating resources including hardware
- Allocation of a quiet study space at lunch / end of day
- Referral to an intervention session or homework club
- Support within the organisation
- Support with time management

## Monitoring

The processes will be closely monitored by the leadership team and evaluated as they occur to allow for improvements to be made.

- Reviewing schemes of work for home learning is to be done by faculty leaders during line management meetings and quality assurance activities.
  - The setting and completing of homework will be monitored as part of the QA process through book scrutiny and student voice activities, conducted by faculty leaders and SLT links.
  - Parents will be informed at parents' evenings regarding home learning tasks.
- 