

Cowbridge School



Homework Policy

Formulated by: Mrs A Leftley, Assistant Headteacher

Adopted by: Main GB 17.10.2024

Last Reviewed: Not applicable – new policy

Review: every 2 years or subject to legislation in changes

Next Review: Autumn 2026

Date of any amendments made to policy & brief points:

Date	Details	Approved by

1. Purpose

1.1 Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills. It requires careful planning and integration into the schemes of work of each curriculum area. In this policy, homework is defined as any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with support from parents/carers. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Staff need to be mindful of giving sufficient time to pupils to complete a task to the necessary standard.

1.2 Homework should:

- consolidate and/or extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- encourage pupils to access resources not available in the classroom and develop research skills
- provide pupils with an opportunity for independent work
- allow pupils to show progress and understanding
- enhance study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline
- encourage pupils to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their own learning

1.3 Most pupils find homework useful and recognise its place in the curriculum. Nevertheless, it is important that they know and recognise the purpose of a particular piece of homework.

1.4 From research conducted with pupils and their parents/carers at Cowbridge School, pupils prioritise the purpose of their homework as:

Lower School

- Finding out new information by visiting places of interest, local landmarks and historical sites
- Developing independent reading skills
- Practising spellings to aid literacy skills
- Developing and practising numeracy skills
- Expressing their creativity through arts and craft projects.

Middle School

- Preparing for assessments
- Getting used to revising
- Demonstrating understanding of what has been learned in lessons
- Building on subject knowledge
- Practising the skills needed in different subjects
- Finding out new information
- Developing into independent lifelong learners.

Senior School and Sixth Form

- Developing revision skills

- Demonstrating understanding of what has been learned in lessons
- Preparing for GCSE/A Level examination style questions
- Completing coursework and controlled assessment tasks
- Building up subject knowledge
- Practising the skills needed in different subjects
- Finding out new information
- Developing into independent lifelong learners.

2. Curriculum Area Homework

2.1 Teachers and/or Departments may choose to set short, frequent tasks or an extended investigation/task that the pupils complete over a longer period of time.

2.2 Teachers and/or Departments should:

- consider the quality over the quantity of work set;
- use well-designed tasks that are linked to classroom learning;
- clearly set out the aims of the homework to pupils;
- understand and address any barriers to completion, such as access to a learning device or resources;
- explicitly teach independent learning strategies;
- monitor the impact of homework on pupil engagement, progress and attainment;
- use completed homework tasks to provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.

3. Responsibilities

3.1 Teachers should:

- prompt pupils to carry out additional tasks to enhance their classroom knowledge and understanding such as research, spelling of key vocabulary, etc.;
- set specific tasks when they are necessary for the continuation of in class/future learning;
- set deadlines for revision in line with assessment dates.

3.2 Pupils should:

- learn the spellings of new, subject specific vocabulary;
- create knowledge organisers and revision materials in preparation for assessments;
- complete wider research on subject topics in order to deepen classroom knowledge and understanding;
- read for pleasure to broaden vocabulary and provide opportunities to explore other worlds and develop imagination;
- complete project tasks and specific subject tasks as directed by the classroom teacher;
- meet deadlines set for homework completion by their teachers.

3.3 Parents/Carers should:

- encourage their child(ren) to read for pleasure at home, covering a range of genres where possible;

- prompt their child(ren) to create knowledge organisers and revision materials in preparation for assessments;
- test and quiz their child(ren) on subject specific vocabulary;
- allow their child(ren) time to research and enhance their learning, through online websites, documentaries and visits to local landmarks, museums, galleries, and areas of specific interest.

4. Expectations

- 4.1 In **Lower School**, home learning tasks aim to consolidate and reinforce current class work with a strong emphasis on the development of literacy skills, particularly oracy in early years, and numeracy. Tasks will cover a wide range of skills and will often involve children and parents/carers undertaking activities together. Tasks might include: practising skills learned during the day such as spelling, reading or number work; making models; completing activities online; or, using the internet for research. Any activities sent home will clearly identify the role to be played by adults in assisting the children.
- 4.2 In **Middle School**, there is a strong emphasis on the development of literacy skills; numeracy skills; independent learning and knowledge retrieval. There are high expectations for pupils to carry out: independent research tasks to enhance their learning in the classroom; reading for pleasure; and, using online sites such as BBC Bitesize, Corbett Maths, Kahoot, Quizlet, in addition to any subject specific sites suggested by departments. In addition, pupils are expected to thoroughly revise for assessments and learn the spellings of key and subject-specific vocabulary. Due to the nature of the tasks being set, there will be no expectation that homework tasks will be marked/assessed by teachers - unless a specific task has been set which requires assessment for progress and tracking purposes.
- 4.3 In **Senior School and Sixth Form**, regular homework enhances pupil learning; improves achievement; and, develops pupils' independent study skills. It is an opportunity for pupils to consolidate and demonstrate understanding of their learning; practise the skills needed in different subjects; and, prepare for GCSE/A Level examination style questions. It is expected that pupils will independently enhance their learning alongside set homework deadlines. There will be no expectation for skill development and research based homework tasks to be marked by teachers, whereas any homework in relation to GCSE/A Level examination style questions will be marked, either against examination marking criteria or in line with Cowbridge School's marking and feedback policy.