

Homework Guidance within Murray Park School



Date of adoption	
Originator	Robbie Beattie Updated by Nick Lynn: Autumn 2023
Title of Policy	Homework Guidance within Murray Park School
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Next review due	Autumn 2024

Homework within Murray Park School – the rationale

This document establishes the parameters for ensuring that homework is an integral part of a student's life at Murray Park School. It is school policy to set regular and meaningful homework for students in all year groups and across the curriculum. Homework tasks will vary in form and content depending on subject, age of student and ability. The Sutton Trust carried out research which demonstrated that homework enhances student learning, raises standards of attainment and helps students to develop independent study skills. The research went on to show that the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive and can lead to, on average, five months additional progress when compared to average student progress.

Purpose:

- To reinforce and extend the wide range of skills, knowledge and competencies acquired in school.
- To ensure consistency of approach and application.
- To make clear to all stakeholders the expectations of school, students and parents.
- To provide opportunities for parents, students and school to work together.
- To aid and support revision and preparation for summative assessments

Aim:

- To develop skills of organisation /encourage habits of individual self-discipline, study habits, time management and deadlines.
- To allow students to experience using other resources for learning at home and elsewhere.
- To ensure that students progress towards becoming independent learners demonstrating that education extends beyond school.

School Responsibilities:

- Guarantee equal opportunities for all students to access and complete all homework set, by ensuring resources are available, including access to IT equipment in non-lesson time during every school day.
- Heads of Department will help ensure subject work demands, are carefully monitored to ensure that student workloads are manageable and subject conflicts are minimised.
- Curricular and Pastoral Leaders will ensure that any parental concerns regarding homework are dealt with promptly and appropriately.

Teaching Staff Responsibilities:

- Set appropriate homework tasks in line with the guidelines for the relevant year group and subject (see timetable at end of document).
- Ensure that sufficient time is provided for the completion of the task e.g. do not set homework deadlines for the next day.
- Ensure students record details in their planner and/or enter details onto homework section of Go4Schools for student and parent access. Work can be added to MS Teams as well, if desired.
- Paper based homework tasks should be printed on yellow paper; however, other forms of setting and completing homework is acceptable e.g. Hegarty Maths, MS Forms, revision workbooks etc.

- Check completion and standard of homework tasks, assess and provide feedback, using school rewards system if appropriate.
- Return assessed homework to students within a fortnight (Week A/Week B).
- Ensure that the non-completion of homework model (see end of document) is used if students miss deadlines.

Student's Responsibilities (completion of homework tasks):

- Record homework tasks in planner and access the homework section of Go4Schools for details of set tasks. Ensure that the length of time to be spent on the task is indicated and the deadline for handing in complete.
- Label tasks as 'Homework', date all work, adhere to Murray Park standard of presentation (Title, date, underlined with a ruler, blue or black pen, drawings in pencil)
- Complete and hand in all homework on time.
- Attend Homework Club or detention as instructed by teaching staff and RALs.

Parent's Responsibilities:

- Check student's planner or homework section of Go4Schools for details of set tasks.
- Support students in meeting deadlines with well-presented and detailed work.
- Support the school staff in ensuring that detentions or opportunities to do high quality homework in Homework Club are undertaken.

Plan your tasks carefully

It is essential that teaching staff carefully consider the homework tasks that they set. Plan your homework tasks so that the outcomes can be incorporated into your lesson e.g. as part of retrieval practice.

Research suggests that the main reason that students do not complete homework is because they do not understand the task. If a lot of students in your class are failing to meet the deadline, it is imperative to reflect upon the nature of the task set and identify how you can adapt your homework to increase uptake.

If a student fails to meet a homework deadline, teaching staff must follow the homework non-completion support model printed below.

Homework expectations per subject

Core subjects will set homework weekly for both KS3 and KS4 and options subjects will set homework at least once a fortnight depending on the contact time per class. Further details can be found in the Homework Timetable at the end of the document.

Feedback to students

Where applicable, homework will be marked following the whole school marking policy, which includes the use of whole class feedback.

Homework Club

The school will provide a resourced and staffed study area for all students to access the facilities before school, during the lunch hour and after school each week day. Staff supporting students will encourage them to work independently but will offer guidance as to where to find information or how to apply it. Staff will be supportive and motivating to develop aspirational and greater independent learning skills.

Recording of homework

Consistent record keeping by all teachers allows the effective monitoring of student progress and the regular evaluation of teaching content/styles/methods. Good practice encourages:

- If relevant, homework marks/grades recorded in teacher mark books on Go4Schools
- Teacher records for homework will inform reporting, both formal and informal, to students, parents, HoD, HoY and Senior Leadership Team.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Head of Department will be expected to review and evaluate the homework set by members of their department on a termly basis. In addition to this the HoD will lead the department in reflecting on what constitutes high quality homework and ensure that this is planned into schemes of work to support the team. This will also be supported through CPD for the full staff body so that all staff are clear about the expectations of homework.

A QA review of the quality of homework set will take place at least once each year to be co-ordinated by a department middle leader. This will investigate the quality of the homework set and the students' response to this as well as the frequency, challenge and impact of the work.

The date of the next review is indicated below:

Autumn term 2024

Model for supporting non-completion of homework

Number of incomplete homeworks triggering a meeting or detention will be reviewed at the end of each half-term.

<u>Homework missed within a subject</u>	<u>Response</u>	<u>Rationale</u>
1-2 x homework(s) incomplete in a subject within a half-term.	Supportive conversation takes place with teacher and student. Teacher should help the student to complete the	Allows the teacher to identify any underlying issues preventing the student from completing the work and give them any support needed.

	<p>homework, modelling and scaffolding as required.</p> <p>Recorded on Go4Schools as no/inadequate homework. Please select the completed action entitled: 'Teacher has supported to the student complete the homework.'</p>	
<p>3 x homeworks incomplete in a subject within a half-term.</p>	<p>SLT detention (30 min After School).</p> <p>SLT have discussion with student about the benefits of homework.</p>	<p>Ensures that students recognise the importance of completing homework.</p>
<p>4 x homeworks incomplete across all subjects within a half-term.</p>	<p>Meet with the RAL to offer further support.</p> <p>RALs could liaise with HoYs to share workload of meetings, if required.</p> <p>RAL records meeting on Go4Schools as an 'academic mentoring meeting'.</p>	<p>RAL will provide support e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Meeting with student to support with organisational skills etc. – Signpost to homework club. – Report with homework target.

