



WHICKHAM SCHOOL

**Homework Policy
2025-2026**

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Aim:

At Whickham School, we believe that high quality homework is an essential tool to extend learning beyond the classroom and develop pupils' ability to take responsibility for their own learning. We believe that well planned, relevant and challenging homework promotes self-confidence and understanding and is integral to the recall and retention of key concepts.

Homework is set according to the following principles:

Homework is linked to the curriculum plan and related to ongoing classroom work.

- a) The purpose of the work to be completed is made clear to pupils.
- b) Homework builds upon prior learning and allows pupils to practise and master skills and concepts. Purposeful Study & Research that deepens understanding may be set where appropriate.
- c) Homework is a key feature of the curriculum plan with 'interleaving' homework tasks incorporated as a strategy to embed key knowledge and skills in preparation for linear examinations. The benefits of interleaving are clearly explained to pupils.
- d) Prior to assessments pupils must be given the opportunity to revise. Where revision homework is set, pupils must be given clear guidance on revision activities to undertake. Revision must be linked to the syllabus and develop exam skills/technique. Staff should ensure they are able to monitor and hold pupils to account for the revision tasks completed.

There is a clear and timely pattern to homework.

- a) Staff must allocate lessons where homework is usually set and collected.
- b) Homework must be well planned. Good practice allows a minimum of 3 days for pupils to complete homework (KS3/4).

Homework is set in line with the relevant key stage and is manageable.

KS3 Subject	Frequency	Average time per HW
English & Maths	Once per week	45 minutes
Science & MFL	Once per week	30 minutes
History, Geography, Art & Technology	Once per fortnight	45 minutes
Music, IT, RS & Drama	Once per fortnight	20-30 minutes
KS4 Subject	Frequency	Average time per HW
Core subjects	Once per week	1hr 30 minutes

Other subjects	Once per week	1hr
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We encourage all pupils to spend at least an hour a week reading for pleasure. In years 7 and 8, Accelerated Reader will be used to support reading for pleasure.

Key Stage 5

- a) At Key Stage 5, all subjects set four hours of homework per week. It is expected that pupils complete their own independent learning in addition to this.

Homework is varied and allows for individual initiative and creativity.

- a) Homework tasks address different skills, such as learning, practice, reading and writing.
- b) Pupils may be given ownership by their teacher over how tasks are presented – images, drawings, mind maps use of ICT, poems etc.

The level of challenge is carefully considered.

- a) Tasks should be differentiated to suit the needs of all learners. Most pupils should be able to complete homework with minimal support in the time allocated. For some pupils accompanying support is provided where appropriate and staff support. The needs of pupils with SEND must be met when setting homework.

There is guidance and support.

- a) Staff clearly communicate to pupils how they can get informal support with homework. This may occur at breaktime, lunchtime or after school.
- b) Additional after school support is available in the Homework Hub. Following discussions with year heads or the academic achievement team, teachers may refer pupils to the homework hub via class charts.

Homework is assigned using Class Charts.

- a) Class charts is used to assign, record and monitor all homework set. Homework must be uploaded to class charts on the day that it is set.

Homework completion is monitored and acknowledged

- a) All homework is checked, reviewed & marked. Submissions are recorded on Class Charts.
- b) Pupils are given specific and timely feedback, with at least one homework per half term teacher assessed. Other homework tasks may be self or peer assessed.
- c) High quality homework is recognised with rewards in line with our reward policy.

Sanctions for non- completion

- a) Any non-completion of homework is recorded on Class Charts and pupils lose 2 points. (B1)
- b) At the teacher's discretion, an extension may be given for the first non-completion of homework. Subsequent late submissions may result in detentions, set in line with the school's detention process and/or referral to the homework hub.
- c) Where a pupil persistently fails to meet homework deadlines, it is the class teacher's responsibility to contact home to discuss with parents / carers and to set appropriate sanctions. This may result in support from leaders within faculties.

- d) Pastoral leaders and the achievement team will regularly monitor submissions on Class Charts. They will take action to support and challenge pupils where homework completion is an issue across a number of subjects.
- e) Year 7 pupils should not be set detentions during half term 1. This is to allow pupils to adapt to the demands and expectations of the homework calendar. Support will be provided in the form of the open-door policy at lunchtimes and additional support sessions guided by the achievement team where necessary.

Policy Review

Last reviewed	By who	Next review
July 2025	P Wheatley	July 2027