

# Homework Policy

## 1. Introduction

Homework is defined as anything that pupils do outside the normal school day, in response to guidance from the school, which contributes to their learning.

## 2. Rationale for homework

- 2.1 Homework is an important part of education: it helps pupils to develop effective work habits, and allows consolidation of skills and knowledge learnt in school. Homework often plays a significant role in raising a pupil's level of attainment. However, MHSG also acknowledges the importance of family time and leisure time in ensuring pupils are able to achieve balance in their lives.
- 2.2 MHSG recognises that, whilst homework is important, it should not prevent pupils from enjoying experiences and opportunities that are available outside of school: a balance should be struck based on individual need. Our Well Being programme educates pupils about the importance of achieving this balance.

## 3. Aims and objectives

- 3.1 The aims and objectives of homework are:
  - To reinforce classroom learning.
  - To help pupils to develop skills and attitudes they need for successful lifelong learning, including independence, investigation, enquiry, organisation, perseverance and self discipline.
  - To keep parents in touch with what their children are doing in school and to give them the opportunity to help and support their child's learning.
  - To provide opportunities to go beyond what has been learnt in class or to prepare for material that is going to be covered in class.

## 4. Types of homework

- 4.1 During their time in school, pupils will be set a wide variety of homework tasks. Tasks may include, but are not limited to, revision, research, preparation of presentations, extended writing, problem solving, analysis of data, evaluation of resources, reading, and making / creating.
- 4.2 In Years 7 to 11, brief details of each homework set will be recorded by the subject teacher on SIMS. This allows parents and pupils to view assigned homework tasks using SIMS Parent / SIMS Student.

## 5. Amount of homework

- 5.1 In Years 7 to 9 homework is set according to the homework timetable issued to pupils and parents at the start of the academic year. Pupils are set 3 or 4 pieces of homework each day and are given at least two evenings in which to complete the homework (with the exception of Maths, which may be set for the next day). Most pupils in Year 7 should not need to spend more than ninety minutes on homework tasks each evening. Pupils in Years 8 and 9 should expect to spend a little longer.

- 5.2 In Years 10 and 11 homework is set according to the homework timetable issued to pupils and parents at the start of the academic year. Pupils are set a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 pieces of homework each day and are given at least two evenings in which to complete the homework (with the exception of Maths, which may be set for the next day). Most pupils in Year 10 should be able to complete their homework within two and a half hours each evening. Pupils in Year 11 should expect to spend a little longer.
- 5.3 In Sixth Form, pupils should expect to spend approximately 10 hours per subject per week on homework. Homework may be set in any lesson and pupils are expected to manage their own time to ensure that all tasks are completed by the deadlines set.
- 5.4 In the week before an assessment week / internal examinations, only revision homework will be set. Revision homework is likely to involve answering questions, or other appropriate tasks set by the teacher.

## **6. Inclusion and homework**

- 6.1 All homework set will be appropriate to the ability of the pupil. For pupils on the Special Education Needs register, tasks set will be adapted as required to meet individual needs. The cultural diversity of our pupils and their families is valued and is considered when homework tasks are set for pupils.

## **7. The role of parents**

- 7.1 Parents have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. Parents are asked to encourage their child to allocate sufficient time to their homework.
- 7.2 Parents can support their child by providing a good working space at home. Pupils need a quiet place for study, away from the distractions of television, computer games, social networking sites and the telephone.
- 7.3 At the end of each week, parents are asked to check the homework written into their daughter's homework planner and to sign one page. Teachers may write messages into the Planner for parents.
- 7.4 In Years 7 to 11, parents are able to view the homework tasks assigned to their daughter using the SIMS Parent app. In these year groups, parents are also able to use the app to view late homeworks for their daughters.
- 7.5 A parent who is concerned about the amount of time their child is spending on homework (whether this is too much or too little) should contact their daughter's form tutor in the first instance.

## **8. Use of ICT**

- 8.1 The use of ICT and the internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect pupils to produce their own work. Pupils are not undertaking a worthwhile learning activity by merely downloading and printing out, or copying and pasting, something that has been written by somebody else.
- 8.2 Whilst the School will recommend sites or apps to enhance a child's educational experiences (for instance, for carrying out research) at home, the School does not take responsibility for internet use at home.. Parents should take steps to ensure their child's safety online at home.

## **9. Sanctions for homework infringements**

9.1 If homework is not handed in on time, or if it is of a poor quality and/or unacceptable presentation, this will be recorded electronically on the school's management system (SIMS). A sanction may be imposed by the subject teacher. This sanction may be a verbal reprimand and / or a referral to the Head of Department. The pupil may be required to complete the missing or substandard work at break time or lunchtime, under supervision.

9.2 If the problem persists or occurs in more than one subject, the sanctions will increase and may include

- Referral to the Head of Year
- Formal School Detention at lunchtime or after school (recorded on reports)
- Homework report
- Student / parent interview with the Head of Year or Deputy Head
- Student / parent interview with the Head Mistress

Parents will be informed if any of these sanctions are necessary.

## **10. Monitoring and review**

10.1 The Deputy Head (Teaching and Learning) is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy, with support from the Deputy Head (Pastoral) and Heads of Year.

10.2 This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the School's policy review programme.

- Reviewed by: Jennie Hodson (Deputy Head Teaching and Learning) January 2023
- Approved by Helen Jeys (Head Mistress) according to School's policy review cycle: January 2023