



Kingdown School

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# HOMEWORK POLICY

Last amended **March 2020**

For review **ANNUALLY**

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*'Homework is not an optional extra but an essential part of a good education.'* White Paper, Excellence in Schools, 1999.

## **Aims**

Homework is an essential element for the development of young people at Kingdown School. It can greatly extend the numbers of hours that our students spend learning new knowledge and skills, and developing their understanding and independence. It also develops our culture and 'work ethic' by encouraging learning outside the classroom. It must not, however, negatively impact on quality 'family time' at home and any homework set should be viewed by staff, students and parents as a valuable learning experience.

## **Go 4 Schools**

We use the online system for homework setting, Go 4 Schools, which can be accessed through a link on the school website and an app by parents and students. All teachers should explain homework and deadlines in class as well as it appearing on the G4S system.

## **Purpose**

- To ensure learning takes place outside the classroom
- To support independent study habits and learning
- To support a deeper understanding of subjects studied
- To support student in managing their time effectively.

## **Responsibilities**

### **The role of the pupil**

- To listen to homework instructions in class
- To download the app if they have a smart phone to see their homework
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline
- To attempt all work and give their best
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

### **The role of the Tutor**

- To include discussion about homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate
- To check the students know where to access the school homework
- To check students aren't feeling overwhelmed with the quantity set
- To note and respond to any comments from parents about individual queries.

### **The role of the class teacher**

- The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken, in line with Department policy
- They must ensure that homework is set on G4S for all classes
- Ensure it is suitable for all students' abilities, differentiated where necessary
- Give full and comprehensive instructions
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met
- Give feedback on homework promptly, or peer/self-assess where appropriate
- Provide help and support
- Log non-completion of homework on G4S and set sanctions accordingly.

### **The role of the Curriculum Leader**

- To seek to enhance the quality, quantity and frequency of homework set within their departments, using the G4S system to check setting and task quality across their teams (or delegate the latter where appropriate)
- To communicate concerns with homework setting with their SLT line manager
- To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area
- To oversee sanctions set for non-completion of homework.

### **The role of SLT member responsible for homework**

- To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation and information
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy and oversee its use within the school to ensure quality setting and monitoring
- Provide training to use G4S if needed
- To monitor the G4S online platform and its usage and communicate with them over the school needs.

### **The role of parents**

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

- Providing a quiet place to work
- Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too
- Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure
- Checking presentation and content of homework being returned to school

- Providing the school with information about any problems through the student or by contacting the school (tutor) directly.

### **Sanctions for non-completion**

If students are unable to complete a homework task for a good reason e.g. they don't understand the work set, they should aim to talk to their teacher or tutor before the deadline.

Procedure:

1. Students are given a warning and an opportunity to produce the homework the next day. Nothing is logged at this stage.
2. If not handed in the next day, students are logged on G4S (-2 points) and set a Break 1 or 2 Department level detention. If homework not handed in, it is completed during detention.
3. If students don't arrive at Break detention for homework, an after school Department detention is set.
4. This is then escalated to an SLT detention if they do not attend.

### **Incentives**

Excellent homework is recognised for praise, either verbal or written, or via a stamper and is logged on G4S as a +3.

### **Quantity of Homework Set/Timetable**

We do not have a set timetable for homework setting. We expect teachers to talk to their students and classes and set appropriate quantities and deadlines. Students should spend the amount of time set on G4S on the homework and stop if it is taking them too long – their effort should be apparent. Tutors should be the first person contacted if students feel overwhelmed by the quantity or level of homework set.

The general rule is that as students get older, they are set more. Year 7 get approx. 20 minutes per night, Year 8 - 30 mins, Year 9 - 40 mins and Years 10 and 11 - 60 mins. This increases again in Years 12 and 13.