



Homework Policy

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Introduction

BTRCC places a strong emphasis upon the importance of homework throughout all years within the school. Homework is a vital part of the pupils' learning experience and leads to better outcomes. *On average, homework can lead to five months additional progress* (Education Endowment Foundation 2017). By completing homework, our pupils are increasing their resilience and ability to study independently.

Purpose of Homework

- To enhance the learning process and provide additional opportunities for study.
- To provide opportunities to develop independent research skills.
- To provide opportunities to use, consolidate and revise the skills and knowledge acquired in the classroom.
- To reinforce positive attitudes towards school work.
- To develop pupil confidence and motivation.
- To enhance the partnership between home and school.

Guidance on the setting and duration of homework

- All homework is set online using Class Charts. Teachers will upload the details on the homework, including the nature of the task and instruction for its completion and due date in accordance with the homework timetable set for each year group. The teacher will inform the class that homework has been set and give verbal guidance on how to complete the task. Homework should be clearly labelled to distinguish work from classwork i.e. HW
- Each pupil has a personal class charts account that allows them to view their personal homework calendar. This shows pupils what tasks have been set, how long to the deadline for each task and allows them to access any attached resources.
- Parents and carers are also allocated a login to allow them to support their child's organisation and completion of homework.
- Pupils that do not have access to the internet at home can use computers in the library and lunchtimes and after school during Homework club. There are printers available to print homework and any worksheets attached.

All subject teachers should set homework for **all** their classes and **all** pupils should complete it. Homework should be set in accordance with the following guidelines:

	Core & Ebacc subjects	All other subjects	Per Evening
Years 7 - 9	<i>30 mins per week</i>	<i>30 mins per fortnight</i>	<i>1 hour</i>
Years 10 & 11	<i>45 mins per week</i>	<i>45 mins per week</i>	<i>1.5- 2 hours</i>

The Planning and Nature of Homework Tasks

Homework should be set to advance pupil progress and support ongoing class work or to review of prior learning.

Homework tasks should:

- Be relevant, meaningful and set for a purpose.
- Not be used regularly for 'finishing off' classwork and this places too much demand on some pupils whilst to little demand for others.
- Be differentiated to provide an equal challenge for pupils with differing abilities.
- Be explained clearly to pupils so that they know what they need to do and how the work will be assessed
- Be manageable for staff in terms of marking and work load.

A range of tasks can be used as homework:

- Memory test – a set of facts issued to pupils to learn for a quick test in class.

- Spelling tests – improves subject specific fluency.
- Multiple choice questions.
- Reading a section of text.
- Questions based on a resource.
- Quick quiz questions based on a set of lessons (supports memory retrieval)
- Preparing a presentation or performance.
- Extended writing questions (can be used for peer marking)
- A specific self contained project based on previous class work (To be completed over several weeks)
- Follow up work to assessments (ensures pupils have learned from errors).
- Revision activities in preparation for examinations and assessments.
- Using subject specific APPS or online programmes eg. Hegarty Maths, tassomai

Marking and Monitoring Homework

- Homework should be assessed and marked within two weeks of the due date.
- Written comments must be constructive, indicating what and how to improve.
- The effort that pupils put into their homework should be recognised and rewarded using the schools reward system on class charts. Examples of excellence should be displayed in classrooms or in corridor displays.
- Completion and effort will contribute to the ATL score given to pupils on progress reports and feedback regarding completion of homework and effort should be given to parents at Parents' Evenings.
- Use of departmental postcards to reward excellence.
- Failure to meet a homework deadline should result in a sanction using the schools behaviour system on class charts.
- Continual missed homework deadlines should result in communication with parents and sanctions in line with departmental policies.

Quality Assurance of Homework setting and completion

Homework will the quality assured as follows:

- Subject leaders will monitor the quality and appropriateness of homework by ensuring tasks are embedded in schemes of work.
- As part of the schools appraisal system, through lesson observations, work scrutinies and department reviews with QE link SLT.
- Class chart reports are generated half termly, concerning the frequency of homework setting by subjects and teachers. These will be shared with individual teachers, Middle leaders and SLT link.
- Homework is an agenda item on QE link SLT meetings with subject leaders.
- An annual report is prepared by SLT responsible for homework.
- Pupils surveyed using questionnaires.
- Parents can give views on homework through parental survey.

Homework Club

To support pupils with their homework, staff from the Learning Support Department run a Homework Club every day after school from 3.10pm to 4pm in the Library. Pupils are encouraged to use it. Teacher help is on hand to encourage and guide and difficulties and concerns can be passed onto subject teachers.