

Bishopshalt School Homework Policy



Rationale

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

Homework is any work, study or learning set to be done outside of normal timetabled lessons. It contains an element of independent study and therefore regular completion of homework is an essential part of enabling students to make more rapid progress and therefore to raise their long term achievement.

Students are also expected to learn to manage their own workload. The use of *Show My Homework* is intended to help students do this. By taking responsibility for managing their own work and deadlines, students will become more independent as learners and this is a valuable life skill.

Homework enhances student learning, improves study skills and is therefore an integral part of the school curriculum. It requires careful planning within the schemes of work of each subject area.

Not all homework has to be done at home. For students who may find it difficult to work at home, or for tasks which require additional resources (specialist materials, software, equipment), it may be necessary or desirable to carry out the task in school, e.g. in the school library or within a specialist subject areas.

Aims

Homework provides opportunities for students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Practise their skills to enhance and demonstrate progress and develop understanding.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Develop their ability to work independently.
- Develop and enhance study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- Take greater ownership and responsibility for their own learning.

It also allows the school to involve parents / carers to a greater extent by:

- Providing an opportunity for them to talk to their child about what they are learning
- Enabling them to ensure their child completes homework properly, thereby supporting the development of their child as an effective student and good independent learner.

Amount of homework that should be set:

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Year:</u>	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	<u>Notes:</u>
Maths		50	60	70	90	90			<i>In KS3, this indicates the <u>average</u> time to be spent per week on homework for these subjects. Pupils should look at the minimum length of time expected for each task set.</i>
English		50	60	70	90	90			
Science		45	50	60	90	90			
MFL		40	45	45					
PD / food / textiles*		30	40	45					
Computing*		20	25	30					
History*		25	30	35					
Geography*		25	30	35					
Religious Studies*		10	10	15					
Art*		20	25	30					
Dance									
Drama									
Music									
PE									
KS4 options					60	90			<i>Recommended minimum. Some practical-based subjects may have additional requirements</i>
					60	90			
					60	90			
					60	90			
A level option (or equivalent)							300	400	<i>Includes independent study as well as written work set by teachers.</i>
							300	400	
							300	400	

TOTAL min /week	315	375	435	510	630	900	1200
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Hours per week	5¼	6¼	7¼	8½	10½	15	20
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All homework should be set using **Show My Homework** and also **written into students' contact book** (or diary in the case of sixth form students).

Students should ideally be given a **minimum of 4-5 days** to complete their homework so that they can manage their workload and the demands of all subjects.

Sometimes pupils will be set larger pieces of work, once a fortnight, or in some cases longer projects or coursework assignments that are to be completed over a period of several weeks.

The amount shown above is the **minimum** amount of time that students should be spending doing independent study or homework each week.

In the event of **absence, students are still expected to catch up on and complete homework set**. They can access *Show My Homework* from any device linked to the internet so can see what has been set for them. It is the student's responsibility to seek help from their teacher as necessary.

Sanctions for non-completion

When homework is not completed, the teacher's priority is to ensure the pupil completes the work rather than to punish them. Therefore, teachers would follow up non-completion of homework by working through the stages as follows:

1. Class teacher has a **discussion with the student** about why the work hasn't been done. The teacher uses his/her **judgement** about whether to **grant an extension** to the homework deadline, e.g. if the student has been absent, has not understood the task or perhaps if it is a 'first offence' and has simply left it at home. This is at the teacher's discretion. If there is no good reason for it not being done, move to stage 2.
2. The class teacher should then **detain the pupil at break / lunch time / after school**, preferably the same day or as soon as possible. (If keeping the student after school to complete work, parents / carers should be contacted). If the student has not understood the work, this is an ideal opportunity to provide some additional support. It is important to note that this detention is the class teacher's responsibility.
3. If the student fails to attend this teacher detention, then parents should be contacted and a **longer after-school detention** arranged, again with the class teacher.
4. In the case of failure to attend the after-school detention, or for repeatedly failing to complete homework, the pupil should then be referred to the **Head of Department** who would need to place the student on **subject report** and contact parents again to explain what is happening. This should last for **at least 2 weeks** (or longer if appropriate) and include at least one target relating to completion of homework. Failure to meet targets would then lead to a departmental detention with the HoD and if necessary a meeting with parents.
5. If the student **persistently fails to comply with departmental sanctions** and/or persistently fails to complete homework, then the HoD would **refer the student to the HoY** for appropriate action. This may include setting a Year Tutor detention if the HoY feels that is the most useful way to sanction the student. It is expected that this would be relatively rare.

Rationale for the change in emphasis:

- The school's priority is student completion of the homework.
- Students should know and remember the reason for any sanction given.
- The class teacher should take full ownership of the sanction before passing on as this provides the most appropriate opportunity for dialogue between the pupil and the relevant teacher.
- HoDs have a key role to play to ensure that the homework in their subject area is taken seriously and is completed by all students and non-completion is followed up.
- Year Tutor detentions and other HoY sanctions should only be used as a last resort and where the student has behaved defiantly towards staff or ignored all other sanctions issued.

Responsibilities

The role of the class teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set homework according to the school's expectations of quantity, quality and frequency.
2. All homework must be entered onto *Show My Homework*.
3. Provide any help, support or resources that may be needed.
4. Give full and comprehensive instructions and ensure it is written into contact books.
5. Set reasonable deadlines (minimum 4-5 days) and check for completion by all.
6. Be available for students to access help and support, as needed.
7. Check that all students have completed their homework and follow up non-completion using the sanctions as outlined above.

The role of the student

1. To ensure the *Show My Homework* app is downloaded onto smartphone, tablet and/or computer at home.
2. To listen carefully to homework instructions in class and write them into the contact book.
3. Ensure they understand what to do at the time it is set – if not ask for clarification.
4. To log into *Show My Homework* **every day** in order check details of homework set, access resources and be aware of deadlines.
5. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in on time.
6. To make their best effort to complete all homework tasks to a high standard, spending an appropriate amount of time on it.
7. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties before it is due in.
8. To attend any detention set by the teacher if homework has not been completed on time or to a reasonable standard.

The role of the form tutor

1. To monitor the homework workload of their tutor group.
2. To support the use of *Show My Homework* by reminding their class of their homework deadlines (especially for Year 7 and for all years during the first few weeks of using the system) during registration.
3. To advise and provide guidance for students regarding managing their own workload.
4. To include homework in student mentoring wherever appropriate.
5. To check that the contact book is being signed by the parent/guardian.
6. To note and respond to any comments written in contact books by parents.

The role of the parent or carer

1. To support their child's use of *Show My Homework* by ensuring that the app is downloaded onto their smartphone, tablet and/or computer at home as well as that of their child.
2. To regularly log into *Show My Homework* and check that their child is completing the homework set. (Forgotten passwords may be reset via the *Show My Homework* website).
3. To check the **quality** of their child's homework from time to time to make sure that they are doing it properly and have spent the requisite amount of time doing it.
4. Support the school and its teachers in the event of sanctions needing to be used if their child hasn't completed their homework.