

Homework Policy



This policy is in line with the Ethos and Values of
Blackburn Central High School

Document Control

This policy has been approved for operation within Blackburn Central High School

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Owner	YMY

Homework Policy July 2016

Introduction

Rationale

At BCHS we value the work students do both at school and at home. Homework provides an opportunity for students to work independently, to research, to carry out specific tasks and to complete work started in class. It is also valuable to “read round” a topic and extend the class work. The curriculum that a student follows should be reflected in the homework that a student is given and should extend the student’s prior learning.

Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops students' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Homework Timetable

A timetable will be produced for all BCHS students which will show the allocation of homework for lessons detailing when homework is set and how long it should take the student to complete the homework. (Appendix 1)

The Class Teacher will ensure that they will:

- Provide varying types of homework that is differentiated to suit the student’s ability.
- To set homework, when appropriate, according to the timetable. The teacher must also give full and comprehensive instructions regarding the homework. Teachers are asked to ensure that adequate time is given for students to write homework details into the BCHS planner.
- Ensure feedback is constructive and enables students to consolidate learning and make further progress.
- Maintain records of homework set and when appropriate individual student achievement.
- To provide help and support to the student if required.
- To inform the DoL and the Pastoral manager or Achievement lead as appropriate, when problems arise e.g. repeated lack of homework

The Progress Tutor will ensure that they:

- To see that homework is being recorded in the BCHS planner.
- To check that the BCHS planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
- To note and respond to any comments written in the planner by parents.

The Director of Learning (DoL) will ensure that they:

- To quality assure the homework that is being set by the class teacher.
- To monitor and evaluate the homework policy within the curriculum subject.

- To provide support to the class teacher if there are any concerns with a student(s) regarding failure to complete homework.

The Students will ensure that they:

- Listen to homework instructions in class and to copy accurately the homework details and note the due date in the BCHS planner.
- Do their best with each piece of work. This includes presentation, numeracy and literacy skills.
- Ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- If some of the homework is too difficult, try to obtain help – from your teacher or parents or a fellow student.
- Be aware that failure to complete homework on time is likely to result in a detention and/or extra work from the subject teacher or curriculum leader. If this happens more than very occasionally your parents will be informed.
- Will get the BCHS planner signed every week by parents/carers.

The Parents will ensure that they:

- To check the homework details are entered properly in the BCHS planners.
- To help the student to organise his or her time to their best advantage so that homework is not left to the last minute or even forgotten..
- Try to provide suitable working conditions at home; a quiet place with a tidy desk.
- To check the time spent on individual tasks by the student. Don't let the student do too much or get upset about a piece of work he or she is finding difficult. Parents/ carers are to use their judgment as to when to intervene and say that it's time to stop working on a piece of homework. Please make a note in the BCHS planner.
- To check the presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- To take an active interest in the student's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
- Give help, if required, but please do not do the work for the student.

Sanctions

When homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure the tasks set meet the pupil's needs. If this is so, then sanctions should be used. Teachers receive support from their DoL. The sanctions are as follows:

- Class teacher - discussion and negotiation with student, imposition of a catch up, informing parents via the planner. The incident must be logged using Behaviour Monitor on SIMS. **If the situation does not improve then the class teacher will seek support from the DoL.**
- DoL - discussion and negotiation with referred student, imposition, informing parents by the planner. Letter to parents and catch up if necessary. (See Appendix 2)

- Tutors - through weekly monitoring of the planners, identifying students with homework problems across several curriculum areas and refers to the Pastoral Managers. The PM discusses and negotiates with student, applies sanction or support where appropriate.

Incentives

- High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.
- Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a faculty letter or postcard may be sent home.

The planner

All students are provided with a BCHS planner at the start of the academic year. This is the key vehicle for communicating homework activities to parents and should be used as fully as possible (other than simply to record **what** homework has to be done and the **date** by which it has to be done) for example:

1. To obtain a parental signature
2. To communicate (briefly) with parents, particularly where there are concerns over non-completion)

Progress Tutors and class teachers should build a 'Homework Planner' moment into their teaching routines, probably towards the end of the lesson. Similarly, there are checking roles for DoL's, Pastoral and Progress Coordinators and Senior Management.

Appendix 1

Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8, 9) can expect approximately 5 hours homework per week

Key Stage 4 (Years 10, 11) can expect approximately 5-10 hours homework per week.

Key Stage 3 Overview

Year	English	Maths	Science	Humanities	MFL	PE / Tech / CA
7	2 x 30 mins	2 x 30 mins	2 x 30 mins	2 x 30mins	30 mins	30 mins
8	2 x 30 mins	2 x 30 mins	2 x 30 mins	2 x 30mins	30 mins	30 mins
9	2 x 45 mins	2 x 45 mins	2 x 45 mins	2 x 45 mins	45 mins	45 mins

Key Stage 4 Overview

	English	Maths	Science	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Year 10	2 x 60 mins	2 x 60 mins	2 x 60 mins	60 mins	60 mins	60 mins
Year 11	2 x 60 mins	2 x 60 mins	2 x 60 mins	60 mins	60 mins	60 ins

- Humanities: History; Geography and RE.
- Maths and English will follow the Key stage 4 Homework schedule in Year 9 as both subjects follow a 3 year Key Stage 4 curriculum.
- Creative Arts (C A) and PE will be set as necessary.

- ICT

KS3 – students will have 2 homework tasks per unit.

Year 7 1 unit = 1 term

Year 8 2 units = 1 term

Year 9 1 unit = 1 term

Y10 will have a limited amount of research homework as permitted by controlled assessment regulations set by exam board.

Y11 students will be given a summer study pack that they are expected to complete as an ongoing task to support learning for the exam unit and in preparation for their mock exam in December. The delivery of the syllabus topics in class time is expected to begin following October half term.

ECDL - students in Y10/11 will have homework according to their module topic and following the first diagnostic testing. Students will be given personalised revision using the printed diagnostic report as a guide to prioritising topics.