



ysgol ardudwy

Homework Policy

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HOMEWORK POLICY

1. Background:

Homework is considered an integral part of the pupils' class work at the school. The use of homework is an opportunity for departments to ensure provision that gives pupils the opportunity to master skills that allow them to develop into independent learners. Homework is also an opportunity for pupils to complete, extend, review and confirm the work done in class. It is considered important for pupils to think about homework as a fundamental part of the school work. Similarly, it is felt that parental support for homework arrangements is indispensable.

Bearing in mind the pressures on the school curriculum, it is also considered that homework tasks must be set in order to maximize pupils within the constraints of curricular subject time contact.

2. Aim:

The aim on the one hand is to maintain arrangements to ensure that suitable and consistent homework is provided for pupils and that this work is completed to a satisfactory standard. The aim on the other hand is to ensure that pupils consider homework as an important element of their school work and try to ensure that parents and pupils alike have a positive attitude towards the work and are aware of the nature, standard and length of tasks children are expected to complete. The work set will always be relevant to what is taught in the lessons.

3. Objectives:

The objectives are to

- provide a balanced range of homework for each pupil, which supports and enriches the class work.
- provide homework which includes short and extended tasks that promote independence, for example, developing practical skills, research, searching, problem solving and extended reading.
- ensure that all pupils keep their work in good order and complete homework on time and satisfactorily.
- ensure that parents are aware of the number, duration and variety of tasks their children are expected to undertake.
- maintain parental support in order to ensure that homework is completed satisfactorily,
- ensure that parents receive sufficient information to enable them to support and assist their children as necessary, including ensuring that tasks are bilingual.

4. Dulliau Gweithredu:

- **Homework book:** Each pupil will receive a homework book at the beginning of the year. In it, pupils will be expected to record all homework set for them. Parents of year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 pupils are expected to check and sign this book weekly. Form tutors check and sign homework books weekly to ensure they are being used to the full. Heads of Year and the Management Team will also check homework books regularly.
- **Show My Homework / ClassCharts System:** Homework tasks will also be noted on a web based computer system that will allow pupils and parents to obtain full details of any homework tasks, including completion date and any resources relevant to the task such as worksheets.
- **Time spent on homework:** It is expected that Year 7 + 8 pupils will normally spend a minimum of 1 hour each night of the week doing homework - approximately 7 hours per week. Year 9 pupils are normally expected to spend at least an hour and a quarter each night of the week doing homework - about 9 hours a week. The homework of Year 10 +11 pupils will be more varied and will depend on the nature of courses as well as the nature of the work undertaken at any one time. It is important that pupils in the middle sets receive the same workload in terms of homework as pupils in the first sets. Similarly, it should be ensured that homework pressures increase in Year 8 and 9.



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- To ensure that pupils have the opportunity to settle into the school we will not give homework tasks for the first two weeks of year. 7.
- Homework will not be set for Year 10 and 11 pupils in the week leading to internal / external examinations to ensure that they have an opportunity to prepare for examinations.
- Teachers are expected to give pupils at least 2 nights' notice to do homework in order to facilitate arrangements for pupils who do activities in the community and in terms of interests outside school hours.
- Information is given to parents outlining the homework routine.
- Departments are expected to provide a balance and a wide variety of homework such as:
 - complete work started in the lessons (whole class not individuals),
 - complete work preparing for lessons,
 - learning of work,
 - revision / examination work,
 - extension work,
 - reinforcement of work,
 - written work,
 - extended reading,
 - Investigative work using a local library.
 - Web-based investigative work,
 - Project preparing for next unit of work,
 - Basic skills mastery work e.g. practice reading aloud, spelling, tables etc.
 - Work involving parents in the process.
- Support and encouragement for pupils with Homework:
 - Support is provided for pupils who do not complete homework satisfactorily by arranging for them to complete homework during Homework Club. If a child does not complete homework, it is the responsibility of a teacher to refer a child to the attention of the Head of Department first and then the Head of Year to arrange for that child to attend the Homework Club regularly.
 - The homework club is in the Resource Center, which will be in the School from 14.30 until 16.10 Monday to Thursday. An additional member of staff will be available at the Homework club on Thursday evening.
 - Pupils are rewarded for good and prompt homework through reward points in SIMS.
 - Pupils who do not complete homework satisfactorily and punctually are penalized by setting additional work during lunch periods.
- Subject teachers and tutors consistently emphasize the importance of homework.
- Training is given on aspects relating to learning skills such as: completing homework; time management and review planning within Learning Skills in PSE lessons.
- It is ensured that parents are in a position to support their pupils by giving them an outline of the school's expectations at the beginning of each year. Support is provided for non-Welsh speaking parents to support their children's Welsh medium work by providing them with equivalent English language material.
- Reference should be made to homework and homework tasks within the scheme of work.



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Appendix 1

Good practice

Order

- ✓ Homework is published at the end of the lesson
- ✓ Homework is recorded in the learner's homework book and Show My Homework / ClassCharts
- ✓ Record the homework on the whiteboard to support ALN learners
- ✓ Ensure that everyone understands the homework
- ✓ Work identified in the department's schemes of work.
- ✓ Homework is set on the same day each week (where possible within the subject)
- ✓ Homework book is seen and signed by a parent / guardian
- ✓ Homework is collected on the same day each week (where possible within the subject)
- ✓ Positive comments written when reporting back on homework, and any corrections in accordance with the whole school Marking Policy
- ✓ Grading/marking of homework in accordance with departmental assessment policy, to ensure consistency within the subject
- ✓ Subject Teacher to record receipt of homework and not received
- ✓ Learners are rewarded / praised for a consistently high standard of homework.

Methodology

- ✓ Homework is a planned element of classroom teaching
- ✓ Homework tasks that consider different styles of individual learners' learning
- ✓ Homework tasks that take account of learners' ability range
- ✓ Homework tasks that consider the diversity of resources available to learners
- ✓ Various homework tasks
- ✓ Challenging homework tasks
- ✓ Homework tasks are interesting.

Homework for Learner / More Able Learners

- ✓ Homework tasks are open-ended and promote imagination and creativity
- ✓ Homework tasks based on research and promoting inquiry skills
- ✓ Homework tasks include investigative skills
- ✓ Long term, project based homework tasks
- ✓ Homework tasks promote self-evaluation
- ✓ Homework tasks that involve working with peers, parents and the wider community
- ✓ Homework is closely monitored by a subject teacher.



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Appendix 2

Frequency of Homework

We will do our best to ensure that learners do not receive more homework than is expected of them, namely:

Years 7 and 8:	45 - 60 minutes a day.
Year 9:	45 - 75 minutes per day.
Years 10 and 11:	60 - 90 minutes a day.

In order to try to ensure this, departments are asked not to set homework more frequently than once every three lessons for a KS3 learner. It should also be noted that departments are not expected to set work every three lessons. Instead, it should be ensured that the homework is set in order to contribute to the learners' education and progress, rather than just to 'set homework'.

For example :

Core Subjects - once a week

Non-Core Subjects - once every two weeks / three weeks

It should also be noted that the scheme to encourage the reading of Accelerated Reader and the Reading in Welsh scheme is ongoing homework for KS3 learners.