



Homework Policy

Person Responsible:	S Sumner	Frequency of Review:	1 Year
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1 Introduction

The teacher standards from 2012 require teachers to:

Set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired.

At Upper Wharfedale School we believe that homework is important in raising student achievement and value its role in encouraging all students to become responsible and independent learners. The main purpose of homework is to consolidate and extend learning as well as provide opportunities for students to prepare for new learning.

2 Aims

As a school we will:

- Set homework in accordance with the homework timetable.
- Set homework which is **appropriately challenging** and which may differentiate through task as well as by outcome.
- Vary the type of task set to allow for individual initiative and the development of good independent study skills.
- Set homework carefully and clearly, allowing time for pupils to record the activity required in their planners.
- Make clear the aims, objectives and the assessment/success criteria for homework.
- Provide feedback on the homework in line with the School’s marking/assessment/feedback policy. (This includes marking and returning work as soon as possible, providing formative written and verbal feedback).
- To ensure that there are systems in place which will support pupils in completing.
- Homework satisfactorily and on time (e.g. planners, target-setting, mentoring, help with study skills).

3 Curriculum Areas

Each curriculum area has its own vision for homework and how it supports learning and progress in that area.

3.1 Mathematics

Homework is a key factor in the students' learning enabling students to work independently at home reinforcing topics covered in class and increasing confidence. Homework is set at least once per week. Feedback is provided through regular marking by the teacher. A variety of resources are used: homework textbooks, worksheets, past exam papers and Mymaths. Students are also encouraged to review work independently using Mymaths and the Mathswatch CD-ROM used in year 11.

3.2 Science

At KS4 the homework is generally based around a work book enhancing and developing understanding within a topic. When completed this also forms an additional revision aid.

At KS3, Y8 and Y9 homework projects are set to enthuse students' knowledge and research skills. The projects are very open to help the student to follow an area that interests them whilst increasing their critical thinking. Y7 the homework is lesson based and used to support development within the topic.

3.3 Human Studies

The Human Studies Curriculum Area will set regular and varied homework tasks that support the learning in class throughout the course of the year.

3.3.1 English

English homework is about independent study. It will be set to enrich the subject and engage the pupils.

Tasks will be varied and interesting. Home work will vary from extended project based work about cultural contexts, to small and measured learning in the form of spellings or learning language terminology. We aim to engage pupils through a variety of styles of learning from reading and writing to posters, story boards and research.

We aim to enable all pupils to become independent learners, thinkers and readers across both key stages.

3.3.2 History/Geography/RE

Examples of homework tasks:

- Research based homework
- Talk based homework
- Longer term homework projects
- Revision homework

Recording homework in alternative forms:

- Digital homework (including animations)
- Talk homework
- Creative homework (including pictures, posters and models)

3.3.3 French

Homework in MFL will be issued regularly as per the school's homework schedule. The home work activities are designed to support and build on the learning taking place in the classroom. They will be a varied and engaging mixture of written and verbal activities designed to promote excellent fluency in French.

3.4 Visual and Performing Arts

3.4.1 PE

At GCSE the purpose of homework is to extend classwork and reinforce topics learnt in class. GCSE PE homework will be set weekly.

In core PE at Key Stage 4, lessons are designed around leadership, independent learning and preparing students for lifelong participation in sport, therefore on-going homework for students is for them to be involved with sports clubs or sports activities so that they are taking part in physical activity outside of school.

In core PE at Key Stage 3, lessons are designed around giving the students the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to be able to take part in specific sporting activities, therefore on-going homework is to practice the skills and reinforce the rules that students learn in the lesson.

3.4.2 Art

Pupils in both key stages are encouraged to take their sketchbooks home regularly to complete and extend school based work. They are given open access to art room materials (which can be borrowed and taken home) and are also allowed to use the art room during break and lunchtime.

Key Stage 3 - As well as ongoing sketchbook work, these pupils are also required to complete an extended home learning project which usually takes up to 8 weeks to complete (sometimes including a holiday period). Pupils are given a separate workbook and a written description of the project broken down into key elements. All tasks require the use of a variety of materials (including photography) and are designed to allow a pupil to include personal interests and experiences. Differentiation is largely by outcome. Feedback is both verbal and written. The work is reviewed regularly and pupils are offered guidance/advice/materials as required.

Key Stage 4 - All GCSE students are expected to develop work in their sketchbook at home on a regular basis – it is very difficult to achieve a higher level grade without this. For many, their sketchbook becomes a source of pride and shows evidence of many hours independent home learning.

3.4.3 Performing Arts

At GCSE the purpose of homework is to extend classwork and reinforce topics learnt in class. Homework will be set weekly. It will rotate between theory and performance practice.

Homework for KS3 is project based. All projects link the topics being studied at school and are to develop and extend learning done in the classroom. All information on these projects can be found on the VLE.

The homework will be designed to support all in class activities by encouraging research into context of the drama or historical studies. The tasks will also be allow students to be reflective about the learning and drama practise undertaken in school. Pupils will be writing reports on their own and other peoples' performances. This is to encourage reflective learners and greater engagement with the subject.

3.5 ICT and Business

A new unit in the specification is a theory exam and this will be covered by setting homework on short topics supported by resources on the VLE.

3.6 Design and Technology

Homework will be set to extend, support and challenge students' learning.

As appropriate to the work done in class, tasks will be set that might be completed for the next lesson or over a more extended period.

Homework tasks in D&T are often integral to the design process and are usually fully explained on the VLE with examples by students in previous years.

Food Technology homework will include preparation for practical lessons along with extended tasks for example researching aspects of nutrition. Tasks are again supported by the VLE with all recipes, methods and special instructions available for food practical lessons.