



Policy:	Homework
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Authorised by:	Deputy Headteacher

For the purpose of this policy 'homework' is defined as any work, games, activities or personal and social routines which students are asked or encouraged to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Whatever the activity, homework should be an enjoyable experience and not a task that puts pressure on the child or the family.

The Intent of Homework

- To develop a partnership with parents / carers, involving them in student learning.
- To consolidate and reinforce knowledge and skills developed in school.

The Amount of Homework

It is difficult to give a precise amount of time that will be spent on homework because needs vary with each individual student and family circumstances may be such that the time available is limited. However, this should not be seen as setting low expectations and so as the student becomes more able to cope comfortably with tasks, or family circumstances alter, s/he will be encouraged to increase the time spent, vary the activity or extend the work.

It is also recognised that for some students with ASC, home is not a place to do school work. Students with literacy difficulties may also struggle with completing tasks that require unsupported reading or writing. Teachers therefore may choose to offer low demand homeworks to reduce adding stress to the home environment.

The Implementation of Homework

The emphasis at Clare Mount is on literacy and numeracy development. Regular reading at home is expected and the student's diary has a Reading Log to evidence this. However, the Reading Programme will facilitate homework. All students can access MyMaths activities at home if they have internet connection; if not, they can access these activities in Maths Clubs at lunchtime. The teachers monitor students' use of this and the students' progress.

For students in Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11), homework will widen to cover subjects which lead to the achievement of qualifications. All students are encouraged to do activities which further their understanding of these subjects. However, if students have difficulties with doing homework for any reason, parents/ carers are encouraged to contact school and teachers are very supportive in personalising expectations and support. This may mean a student only doing homework in a school club or not doing homework at all.

What activities will be set?

Short activities provide a very important opportunity for children to communicate what they are learning about to an interested adult, and to practise skills. These may include:

- handwriting exercises; sentence completion ; learning spellings
- an activity relating to any other subject such as a quiz which helps the student talk about what they are doing in school

For some students, tasks set for homework provide the opportunity to develop skills of independent learning; for others it is the involvement of parents and carers in 'shared' activities, however brief, which is most valuable in promoting learning.

It is important that homework is:

- achievable
- beneficial
- accessible

Recording Homeworks and Homework Completion

Each student is given a homework diary at the beginning of the academic year. Students are encouraged to independently write up their own homework though it is acknowledged that some will require the support of staff in order to do this. Students are expected to complete their homework by the deadline date. Where students are unable to complete their homework on time, they may experience a minor reprimand, which may be missing a break-time. The student will then be expected to complete the unfinished work in their own time. Staff are sensitive to the difficulties individuals may face in completing homework and the necessary follow up action will occur according to the situation.

Parent / Carer Support

The Government has set out its expectations of the role of parents/carers in supporting homework. They are:

- provide the student with a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which they can do their homework
- encourage students and praise them when they have completed their homework
- expect deadlines to be met and check they are
- Parents/Carers are expected to be supportive but should not complete their child's homework.
- Parents / Carers are encouraged to contact school if they wish their child to receive more homework

School Support re. Homework

School can assist in giving guidance on strategies that can be employed in the home setting to alleviate specific difficulties:

- Use of reward programmes to reinforce and encourage students
- The use of visual cues at home to increase communication and interaction
- Use of computer programmes to encourage constructive ICT skills and other subject specific learning.
- Reflecting on work completed by the student at school in the home setting, through completed work sent home
- Using similar activities to those employed at school to enhance curriculum areas such as literacy and numeracy on a practical level
- Academic workbook activities which have been initiated by the school (e.g. GCSE revision guides).
- Use of Google Classroom to access specific work provided by the teacher

At Clare Mount, parents/carers are encouraged to be actively involved in the learning process. Activities used in school to promote learning are shared with parents/carers at parents' evenings as well as at informal meetings and family learning events.

The School website has clear details of all the topics being covered by the students in each Year Group every term. This enables parents/carers to discuss with their child about their learning in school. The Spectrum Steps colour system provides a simple, visual guide for parents/ carers to be able to identify what their child needs to do next to make further progress.