



Homework Policy

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Introduction

Homework enhances students learning, improves achievement and develops study skills and is an integral part of the learning process.

An assigned task by teachers, homework is to be completed outside of class/school time: these tasks have been carefully planned and integrated into all curriculum areas.

Students should have homework that is set regularly, and is meaningful and appropriate to their age and stage.

Homework is set in order to:

- Develop essential transferable skills for life
- Enhance, deepen and foster a scholarly love of learning in the subjects studied
- Assist in the process of formative assessment to help teachers in adapting planning accordingly
- Foster a learning community, where teachers, parents/ carers and students work as partners in the educational journey of students

Types of homework tasks

The list below is not an exhaustive list of tasks that could be set for homework, but rather an indication of the type of tasks that are appropriate. There is an expectation that students would receive a variety of tasks over time.

- Preparation for future learning (such as reading ahead and summarising or planning tasks for future tasks)
- Wider reading tasks for enrichment or consolidation
- Structured short-answer questions to consolidate learning in lessons.
- Choice of tasks with varying levels of challenge.
- Vocabulary or key-facts learning.
- Extended project work – either completed as individuals or collaboratively.
- Guided research with appropriate support at the start of the work, such as key websites or printed references.
- Timed essays or extended pieces of writing.
- Creative responses to the learning – such as pamphlets.
- Online homework tasks.
- Revision.
- Write-up of experiments or practical work.
- Rehearsal.

Current research suggests that the most effective homework tends to be preparation for future learning and completion of specific tasks with clear criteria for success. Research also suggests that it is effective to give students some autonomy with the task, such as giving them choices or license to be creative. Project work tends to be least effective.

Arena Academy Homework Procedure

Our view on homework is that it should stimulate curiosity and encourage students to explore learning independently. We do not always believe that homework should contain a deadline and a consequence if not done, however, we recognise that occasionally there is a need for this approach across subjects. With this in mind, some of the homework your child will be set will be compulsory, and some will be independent study:

- Compulsory homework – This will come with a deadline that must be met. Failure to hand this work into the class teacher will result in a reflection.
- Independent Study – This is homework that will be set without a deadline. This is additional work that will support the progress of learners beyond the classroom.

Although we have removed deadlines (and consequences) for some of the homework set, our expectation is that all students engage with and complete all homework set for them. We will never issue a sanction to a student that finds the homework difficult, however the onus is on the student to seek support from their subject teacher prior to the day of the deadline.

We are keen for students to develop independence, ownership of their learning and good study habits that will last with them beyond their school experience. We believe that we can achieve this through a balance of both a compulsory and independent study.

Amount of homework

The academy does not have a fixed homework schedule for different subjects on different evenings. Students will need to manage their time so that they do some homework each evening.

The amount of time spent on each homework task is flexible, but within the following guidelines:

| | Per Subject | Per Evening |
|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Years 7 and 8 | 15- 30 minutes | 45 mins- 1.5 hours |
| Years 9, 10 and 11 | 40 – 50 minutes | 1.5 hours – 2 hours |

Homework is set by individual subject teachers and is set on a rota with core subjects setting homework every week and non- core subjects setting homework every two weeks as a reflection of the allocated teaching hours.

Homework Rotation

| Year Group | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|-------------------|---|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Week A | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science |
| | History, RE, Computer Science, Art, PE | Geography, French, Performing Arts, DT. | History, RE, Computer Science, Art, PE | Option A, Option B, Option C | Option A, Option B, Option C |
| Week B | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science | English, Math, Science |
| | Geography, French, Performing Arts, DT. | History, RE, Computer Science, Art, PE | Geography, French, Performing Arts, DT. | Option A, Option B, Option C | Option A, Option B, Option C |

