



DORMSTON SCHOOL

Homework Policy

(December 2019)

Aim

The school regards homework as an important part of every pupil's educational experience. It should play a crucial role in the work of every department. Pupils in secondary schools which give homework perform better (EEF).

Homework serves many purposes:

- **Practice** - putting into practice what has been learnt throughout the school day
- **Participation** - encouraging students to get involved in work outside of school and the importance of taking part in activities
- **Personal development** - the completion of homework helps students to develop their independence, timekeeping and show them the importance of good work ethic
- **Preparation** - preparing students for work to come and allowing them the opportunity to prepare for this ahead of lesson time
- **Parent-child relationships** - the completion of work at home helps parents and children to bond and develop their relationship through home-learning support
- **Parent-teacher communication** - homework acts as the bridge between home and school, it helps to improve communication between home and school

Careful thought should be given to the nature of the assignments set as homework. Tasks should be varied, planned and purposeful. They should be accessible to all of the pupils concerned, not merely those fortunate enough to have a well-resourced home. Homework should enhance and accelerate learning. The aim of this document is to communicate and provide a clear structure that maximises the effectiveness of homework and therefore pupil performance.

Homework is set for the following purposes...

- to review and consolidate what pupils have learnt in class;
- to extend and develop what pupil have learnt in class;
- to research or prepare for final GCSE Examinations;
- and above all, to develop habits of self-directed learning.

Homework is appropriately set when...

- the level of challenge matches what pupils are capable of doing;
- the connection and relevance to classroom lessons is clear to pupils;
- the homework reinforces prior knowledge or prepares pupils for future assessments.

Homework is done well when...

- the pupil achieves a regular routine – with sensible time, in a well-organized space and quiet environment;
- the pupil reflects actively on what was learnt in class and uses the opportunity to demonstrate to the teacher what they have understood;
- the pupil applies his/her own effort and ideas and obtains guidance and support from parents or teachers when needed;
- the pupil completes assignments as required and on time.

Homework is assessed well when...

- the teacher's comments identify strengths and the pupil's achievement is commended;
- the teacher's comments suggests areas and strategies for improvement;
- the pupil is motivated to maintain and raise his/her own standards.

Homework is set according to a timetable published each September. It is organised as follows:

Frequency of Homework *per timetable cycle of 2 weeks*

Key Stage 3	Year	7	8	9
English, Mathematics and Science		2	2	2
Languages		1	1	1
Design Technology		1	1	1
Geography		1	1	1
History		1	1	1
Religious Education		1	1	1
Art		1	1	1
Computing		1	1	1
Key Stage 4	Year	10	11	
Science		2	3	
English		3	3	
Mathematics		2	2	
Full GCSE Options		2	2	
RE		2	2	

Duration of Homework

The approximate length of each homework task should be:

(These times are only approximate and some homework tasks may vary from these times where the teacher feels it is appropriate)

Year 7:	20 – 30 minutes
Year 8:	30 – 40 minutes
Year 9:	40 – 50 minutes
Years 10 and 11:	50 – 60 minutes

Types of homework

Homework will be used to **reinforce prior knowledge**. It should regularly take the format of Last week/lesson, Last month, Last term/year tasks which will reinforce prior learning. This will ensure that revision is an ongoing process and will reinforce **the 5 Year Curriculum model**.

Knowledge Organisers should be issued at the start of each topic and can be used as a starting point for homework tasks e.g. Use you Topic 2 knowledge organiser to create a mind-map about waves. These can also be revisited to embed understanding with tasks being set from previous term's KOs.

GCSE questions as homework is encouraged. These should mix topics/styles from current and previous learning.

Homework can also be used to prepare for the next activity in a form of **flipped learning** where pupils prepare in advance for new topics. Knowledge Organisers may also be used for this.

Reading may be set as homework. Parents should acknowledge that reading homework has been completed.

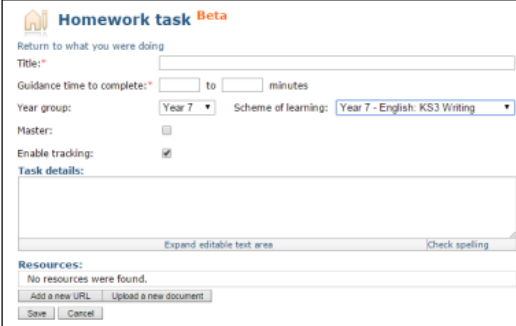
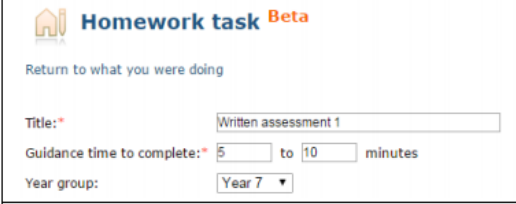
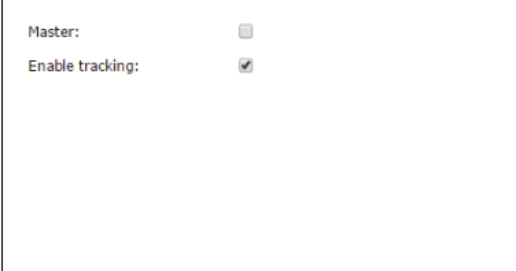
Support with Homework:

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Support is available through 'SEND Homework Club' and in the PLC after school.

Recording of Homework:

Creating a New Homework Task

From the menu, navigate to Homework > Add new homework task.

	<p>A homework task must have a title. You can set a guidance time for students and guidance text. You can also add links to web pages and upload documents.</p> <p>If you assign a year group to the task, it will help you locate the task when you want to assign it to a group, but it will not prevent you from assigning it to students in a different year group if you choose to do so.</p> <p>Similarly, if you link the homework task to a Scheme of Learning, it will make it easier to assign the homework task to subjects linked to the Scheme.</p>
	<p>Curriculum Leaders and School Managers can use the "Master" checkbox to identify a homework task as an "approved" homework set up by a Curriculum Leader.</p>
	<p>Master homework tasks can be assigned as they are, or can be used as templates that classroom teachers can copy and tweak to meet their specific needs.</p> <p>Homework tasks can be assigned to markbook assessments so that a mark or grade can be associated with it.</p> <p>If you want to record the status of the homework (E.g. Late, Complete), you can tick the "Enable tracking" checkbox.</p>

Homework should be recorded by pupils in their planner.

Homework may be added to Go4Schools by the class teacher.

Homework should be clearly identifiable; when completing work in exercise books pupils should label it as homework.

Process:

Adhere to the timetabled schedule (teacher).

Label tasks clearly as homework (pupil).

Record the homework that has been set each lesson (teacher).

Cross reference recorded tasks with exercise books/folders during book scrutiny as part of the monitoring process (CL and Link Manager).

Check that the pupil has completed the task by the due date (teacher).

Check/mark tasks with a quick turnaround (teacher).

Procedure in event of non-completion:

1. **First incomplete homework** – pupil receives a **warning** and a note in their planner
2. **Second incomplete homework** – **pupil receives a 15 minute detention** (written in detention section of planner) **with the class teacher** and their effort grade for that term drops to a 3.
3. **Third incomplete homework** – pupil receives a **30 minute CL detention** and a **letter/phone call is sent home** (see Appendix 1) raising concerns about homework and pupil placed on **homework report for that subject**. CLs will add referral on Go4Schools.

4. **If the problem persists or if a pupil fails to attend a CL detention**, CLs should maintain contact with home. They should involve their SLT Link for support with **a compulsory 40 minute homework catch-up session** to be held after school in A10 (running concurrent with the after school detention system).
5. **If a pupil is referred by 3 or more CLs, the pupil will be placed on homework report by their Deputy Head of House** (see Appendix 2). Appropriate sanctions will be decided by DHoHs such as compulsory attendance at homework club or day in refocus.

Appendix 1

Date

Dear Parent/Carer,

<Name of pupil> has failed to complete three homeworks for <Subject>.

In line with the school's Homework Policy <Name of pupil> will now receive a 30 minute Curriculum Leader detention on <Date> at <Time>.

Please note that for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, and equipment) more readily available at school, it may be necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Support is available through 'Homework Club' and in the PLC after school. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's form tutor should you feel that they will benefit from this support.

Thanking you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

<Name>
Head of <Subject>

Appendix 2

Dormston School **Homework Report Card**

Preparing You For Success



NAME: _____

FORM: _____

REPORT START DATE: _____



You have been placed on report to support you with your completion of homework. Additional support may have also been offered to ensure that we are working with you to ensure you complete homework on time and to the best of your ability.

Please note that each unacceptable will result a sanction as agreed by your Deputy Head of House

KNOWLEDGE EFFORT RESPECT RESPONSIBILITY RESILIENCE



DAY	Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4	Period 5	DHoh Sig.	Parent/ Carer Sig.
Monday	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A		
	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed		
	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted		
Tuesday	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A		
	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed		
	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted		
Wednesday	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A		
	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed		
	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted		
Thursday	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A		
	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed		
	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted		
Friday	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A	Subject: N/A		
	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed	Completed		
	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted	Uncompleted		





COMMENTS:

A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing comments.

When this policy was reviewed, an equality impact assessment was conducted to ensure any changes did not have an adverse effect under the terms of the Equality Act 2010. Should you have any comments regarding this policy, please contact the school.