



# SMITHDON HIGH SCHOOL

## HOMEWORK POLICY

**March 2010**

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Smithdon High School recognises that homework:

- Helps young people to develop the skills and attitudes needed for successful, lifelong learning.
- Encourages the development of independent learning skills.
- Provides parents with an opportunity to engage in their son's/daughter's learning.
- Provides the opportunity to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- Supports the home/school relationship.
- Encourages the development of confidence and self-discipline for pupils to work independently.

### **Amount and Type of Homework**

Add: To ensure that appropriate levels of homework are set each evening, a homework timetable will be published for each year group.

At Key Stages 3 and 4, homework will not normally be set for completion by the next day, but students will be given at least two days for completion.

At Key Stage 5 students should make appropriate use of study time to complete assignment work, background reading, research and revision. As a guide students should spend five hours a week on each subject outside of lessons.

### **Amount**

#### **Key Stage 3 (Years 7/8/9)**

Core Subjects:	English Maths Science DT	Increasing from 30 to 45 minutes each per week during years 7 to 9
Foundation Subjects:	(Humanities) MFL Geography History	Increasing from 30 to 45 minutes each per fortnight during years 7 to 9
Foundation Subjects: (Practical)	Art Music Drama	30 minutes each per fortnight
ICT/RE		at least 2/3 pieces of homework, 30 to 45 minutes per half term

### **Key Stage 4 (Years 10/11)**

Core Subjects and Options

1 hour each per week

ICT/RE

at least 1 hour each per half term

### **Key Stage 5 (Years 12/13)**

Students are expected to spend five hours a week per subject out of lessons. In Year 12 teachers will direct students with a combination of research, preparation for the next lesson, exam questions, essays and consolidation exercises. As students progress to Year 13, they will be expected to be self-directed for a proportion of their work out of lessons.

### **Type**

Homework might include:

- Writing assignments
- Learning assignments
- Preparing an oral presentation
- Reading in preparation for a topic/discussion
- Research a specific topic for a project
- Exam questions
- Worksheets to practise/consolidate skills
- Spelling tests – learning key words
- Posters
- Watching an educational or topical TV programme
- Revision tasks for external exam preparation.
- Preparing for coursework or for a controlled assignment.

Homework will be differentiated where necessary to take individual needs into account.

### **School's Responsibility**

The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework and should check that students are recording details in their planners. Departments will identify recommended homework tasks and resources in the scheme of work where possible.

The subject teacher will monitor the quality and completion of homework through feedback in class, self-marking, peer assessment and marking of written tasks when appropriate.

The Head of Department is responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their department are setting appropriate homework regularly and monitoring it as above.

### **Non Completion of Homework**

When homework has not been completed, appropriate action will be taken by the teacher who has set the homework. This may include a break time or lunchtime detention and contacting the pupil's parent. Persistent failure to complete homework may result in compulsory attendance at subject help sessions, departmental detentions or subject report and further contact with parents.

### **Parents'/Carers' role in Homework**

- Parents/Carers should support students with their homework, encouraging planning and the use of the planner.
- Parents/Carers should try to provide a reasonable place where students can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities.
- Parents/Carers should encourage students to meet homework deadlines.
- If parents/carers feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the form tutor who will investigate the situation.
- Parents/Carers should make it clear to students that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them to progress.
- Parents/Carers should encourage students and praise them when homework is completed.

### **Students' Responsibilities**

- Students should always carry their planners with them.
- Students should record the homework set and due date even if they have written it in detail in their exercise book.
- Students need to accept that deadlines must be kept.
- If a student is absent, they need to find out what work they have missed and catch up on it. Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary students should see the member of staff concerned for help or attend the help session in that department.
- Students should take a pride in doing their best.