

Policy adopted on: July 2019

Date of Review: July 2020

Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. All staff at The Boulevard Academy are determined that every student succeeds and this policy aims to assist with this endeavour.

Various studies from Hattie, PISA and others suggest effective homework raises outcomes. The Education Endowment Foundation states, on average, the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive (leading on average to five months additional progress). Homework enhances pupil learning and improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. However, it requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work.

Homework is important in raising student achievement. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks that may require resources (books, software) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Areas within the school will therefore be designated for the completion of homework during an afterschool provision.

Aims

Homework enables pupils to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- Access resources not available in the classroom
- Develop research skills
- Have an opportunity for independent work
- Show progress and understanding
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching
- To enhance their study skills eg. Time management and self-discipline
- Engage parental co-operation and support
- Create channels for home school dialogue

Homework can be:

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Exam questions
- Recall Quizzes
- Skill Development
- VLE based, for example MyMaths
- Practice – learning by doing
- Research
- Reading
- Drawing

What should be considered when setting homework?

- Planned and focused activities are more beneficial than homework that is not linked to class activities or irrelevant to learning outcomes.
- Homework should not be used as a punishment or penalty for poor performance.
- A variety of tasks with different levels of challenge.
- The quality of homework is more important than the quantity. Pupils should receive feedback on homework that is specific and timely.
- The purpose of homework should be made clear to students. For example, to increase a specific area of knowledge.

What is Show My Homework?

Show My Homework is a simple homework calendar the school will be using to ensure homework is set and communicated with parents across the school. Teachers can use it to set homework quickly and ensure the learners and parents always have the information they need about homework available via the Web, Mobile and Tablet devices. This system replaces the traditional homework planner, and ensures that teachers, parents and students all know what has been set and when it is due.

How can homework be accessed?

A personalised homework calendar is available for all users including students and parents. Once you login, students can only see their own homework calendar.

Expectations: How much and by whom?

The following has been provided as guidance for the amount of time and frequency that homework is set but it is important to remember that it is quality of the work completed rather than the quantity. The times provided below are a weekly average and the amount set may vary week from week.

	Subject	Y7	Y8	Frequency Set
	English	20 mins	25 mins	Weekly
	Maths	20 mins	25 mins	Weekly
	Science	20 mins	25 mins	Weekly
	Geography	20 mins	25 mins	Fortnightly
	History	20 mins	25 mins	Fortnightly
	Religious Studies	20 mins	25 mins	Fortnightly
	Spanish	20 mins	25 mins	Fortnightly
	Enterprise	30 mins	30 mins	Half Termly
KS3	<p>As a rule, homework will not be set in PE unless revision is required before the assessment period, or if there is a project that required additional work outside of class, in which case students will be provided with specific details via Show My Homework.</p> <p>Homework set half termly will be project based and run alongside the class curriculum.</p> <p>In addition to the work set in class all students in Key Stage 3 are expected to regularly revise and review their notes, seek enrichment opportunities and challenges. They are also expected to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes a night. In addition to promoting reading for pleasure, students benefit from enhanced fluency and the wider general knowledge that arises from regular reading, thus supporting learning in all</p>			

	aspects of the curriculum. Reading will be monitored by parents and not directly supervised by teachers. Literacy will continue to be promoted throughout the curriculum and reading for pleasure will be supported in all subject areas.				
	Please note that the following is a weekly average and the time will vary from week to week:				
		Y9	Y10	Y11	Frequency
KS4	English	40 mins	40 mins	50 mins	Weekly
	Maths	40 mins	40 mins	50 mins	Weekly
	Science	40 mins	40 mins	50 mins	Weekly
	Option subjects will have 30 minutes homework per week, per subject as appropriate and dependent upon revision, examination schedule and controlled assessments, increasing to 45 minutes in Year 11.				

How will homework be marked?

- The Boulevard Academy is focused on reducing teacher workload and as such will not require detailed diagnostic marking of every piece of homework.
- All homework should be given a grade for quality between 1 – 4:
 - 1 = Outstanding
 - 2 = Good
 - 3 = Satisfactory
 - 4 = Inadequate
- All homework must be marked for SPaG
- Where appropriate, homework can form part of the self-assessed and peer-assessed work that is required by the Marking Policy
- Where appropriate, homework can form part of the diagnostic marking that is required by the Marking Policy
- Every possibility should be taken to provide homework that can be automatically graded through a VLE programme, including Show My Homework

Responsibilities

The role of the pupil:

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To visit the school calendar via the school website.
- To download the Apple or Android app if they have a smart phone to see their homework.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor:

- To include homework in tutor time where appropriate.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded via Show My Homework reports.
- To check students know where to access school homework.
- To note and respond to any comments received by parents.

The role of the class teacher:

- The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.
- Ensures that homework is set on Show My Homework for all classes.
- Set homework according to The Boulevard Academy's Homework Policy.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework promptly.
- Provide help and support.

The role of the Head of Faculty/ Head of Subject:

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set
- To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area
- To praise accordingly students that consistently do their homework and highlight learners that need support

The role of SLT member responsible for homework:

- To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school.
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy

The role of parents:

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students confidence to work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents can assist by:

- Providing a quiet place to work, which is well lit.
- Negotiation with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Ensuring that outside clubs/ activities do not hamper a child's quality of work
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Monitoring the Show My Homework site with regards to the setting and completion of the homework.
- Providing the school with information about any problems through contacting the class teacher directly.

Monitoring of Homework through Show My Homework:

Homework is very much a school-wide topic. Therefore it requires a consistent approach across the School. It must be easy for all stakeholders to have an overview of homework. To ensure that everyone meets the homework guidelines set, we have the following options to monitor homework.

Classroom teachers/ form tutors:

- Using Show My Homework teachers can keep a record of all homework set daily, weekly, termly and yearly.
- Teachers can keep a record of student submissions to see quickly who has completed or missed homework deadlines.
- Teachers can search for any student they teach at the school and see the homework the student has been set at any time.
- All teaching staff have access to the school homework reports, which are designed to save time and can be exported to Excel.

Head of Faculty/ Head of Subjects:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My homework to see how much/ little homework has been set in the faculty/ department quickly and accurately.
- Identify students that are persistently missing deadlines.
- As a Head of Faculty/ Head of Subject or Head of Year, see quickly how your cohort is engaging with homework across subjects.
- Check the quality of homework set by colleagues in your Department at any time.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Ensure colleagues in your Department save time by encouraging collaboration and using homework already created by the department more effectively.

Support Staff:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much/ little homework individual learners have been set.
- See very quickly what homework individual learners have been set and be able to share this information quickly and effectively with parents/ carers.
- Use Show My Homework to plan relevant support and preparation work required to support the learners more effectively.

Senior Leaders:

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to quickly measure against the expectations outlined for homework.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.
- Check the quality of homework set by colleagues across the school at any time.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Use Show My Homework to put in relevant interventions to support learners that are consistently missing deadlines.
- Use Show My Homework to reach and communicate with hard to reach parents.

Evaluation/ Reviews:

- Homework reports will be checked regularly.
- Where issues with regard to the setting of homework are revealed as part of the monitoring process, SLT will need to have discussions with the relevant staff and HOD, provide support

where necessary to remedy the situation and instigate further monitoring if needed to check the intervention has been effective.

Homework Sanctions:

Class teachers should always follow up any issues with incomplete homework, seeking further understanding as to why this has not been done from the student. Where necessary, additional support for the class teacher can be sought from the Head of Subject.

Stage	Issue	Staff Action	Student consequences
Warning	Student fails to submit homework	Staff member agrees with student a time when to hand in missed homework, with reminder of consequences. At the very latest, this will be the following morning.	Student required to hand work in when staff requested
1	Student fails to complete homework, second occasion (or raised in more than one subject)	Log on SIMS with a comment. Log a break time detention.	Required to stay in during time requested by staff to complete missed work.
2	Student fails to complete homework on second occasion. (or homework is persistently handed in late)	Subject teacher logs a 30 minute after school detention. Parents contacted – telephone call from subject teacher. HOD informed.	Required to stay in afterschool to complete missed work. (30 mins)
3	Student fails to complete homework third occasion (or raised persistently in more than one subject)	Subject teacher issues one-hour afterschool detention where homework is to be completed. Parental contact made by subject teacher or HOD.	Required to stay in afterschool to complete missed work. (30 mins)
4	Student fails to complete homework. Fourth occasion	Parents invited in to meet/ phone contact with Head of Department. All missing work given directly to parents/ or explained via phone call, and time frame given for completion.	Student is required to complete all missing work in given time. Student is to complete work within school in a homework club.

Rewards/ Incentives:

High quality homework and a good ethos should be praised in class. Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. For example, subjects may wish to exhibit work for ‘Homework of the week’. Merits for achievement and sustained effort may be rewarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a postcard from the HOD or class teacher may be sent home.



Homework CPD:

CPD is available throughout the year on how to use Show My Homework. Please contact help@showmyhomework.co.uk to schedule a tutorial