



Homework Policy

Approved Summer 2014

All school policies are reviewed by Governors annually

Aims

This policy aims to provide clarity regarding the purpose of and arrangements for, the setting of homework.

1 - Purpose

1.1 Homework is work that is set by teachers to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. Homework enables students to enhance their learning and develop study skills, and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. The school fully recognises the importance of the setting of thoughtful and challenging homework tasks and students' engagement with them.

1.2 Students are set a wide variety of homework tasks which encompass the following:

- Consolidation and extension of work covered during lessons.
- Preparation for new learning activities.
- Development of independent research skills.
- Reflection on their learning within lessons.
- Preparation for controlled assessments (Key Stage 4/5).

They provide students with the opportunity to:

- Demonstrate the progress and understanding in their learning.
- Develop independent study skills. E.g. planning, time management and organisation.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Access learning resources not available in school.

2 - Setting of Homework

2.1 - Key Stage 3

2.1.1 English, Mathematics and Science set homework fortnightly.

2.1.2 Modern Foreign Languages set homework weekly. Furthermore, in Year 8 and 9, students in French and German top sets (A1 and C1) are set one French and one German homework per week; students in sets (A2-4 and C2-4) are set one French homework per week.

- 2.1.3 The minimum time that should be spent on homework in each of the above subjects (2.1.1 and 2.1.2) is as follows:
- Year 7 – 30 minutes per subject per fortnight
 - Year 8 – 45 minutes per subject per fortnight
 - Year 9 – 60 minutes per subject per fortnight
- 2.1.4 Most other departments (Art & Design, Design Technology, Geography, History, ICT, and Religious Studies) set "Independent Learning Tasks". The specific purpose of these tasks is to encourage students to develop their independent study skills so that they will be better able to cope with controlled assessment in Key Stages 4 and 5 and in further education.
- 2.1.5 The Key Stage 3 Homework Timetable specifies the dates on which each of the tasks are set.
- 2.1.5 With the exception of calendared assessment weeks, one assignment is set each week and each of these assignments is expected to take a minimum of 2 hours.
- 2.1.6 Therefore, the total minimum time that students are expected to spend on **all** homework per fortnight is:
- Year 7 - 6 hours
 - Year 8 - 7 hours
 - Year 9 - 8 hours

2.2 – Key Stage 4

- 2.2.1 English, Mathematics, Science set homework at least once per fortnight.
- 2.2.2 Most option subjects set homework regularly at specific points during the course. Further information relating to this can be found in the KS4 Assessment Overview, which can be found on the school's Virtual Learning Platform (VLP).
- 2.2.3 The total minimum time that students are expected to spend on all homework per fortnight is between 12 and 18 hours.

2.3 – Key Stage 5

- 2.3.1 Subjects set independent study tasks regularly at specific points during the course. Further information relating to this can be found in the KS5 Assessment Overview, which can be found on the school's Virtual Learning Platform (VLP).
- 2.3.2 Students spend an appropriate amount of time on such tasks in line with the *Cheltenham Bournside School and Sixth Form Centre Partnership for Learning Agreement*.

3 – Support for students in the completion of homework

- 3.1 The Reading Centre is open every morning (8:30am - 8:50am) and also every evening until 4:15pm (Monday to Thursday) and 4:00pm on a Friday. The Learning Centre is open before school (8:15am – 8:45am), during lunchtime (1:30pm – 2:00pm) and every evening until 4:15pm (Monday to Thursday) and 3:45pm on a Friday. In both of the above venues, all students can carry out quiet study with access to a wide variety of resources.

- 3.2 During the school day the sixth form students can use the Sixth Form Study Centre to complete their independent study tasks, in a quiet environment with full access to computer facilities. This provision is also available before school (8:00am – 8:50am), during lunchtime (1:30pm – 2:10pm) and every evening until 4:30pm (Monday to Thursday) and 4:00pm on a Friday.
- 3.3 Provision for students who require extra support with homework is available every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday in the Learning Centre. (3:15pm - 4:15pm)

4 – Monitoring the Standard and Completion of Homework

- 4.1 If a student fails to submit a piece of homework or if in the teacher's professional opinion it does not meet the standard that they expect of that student, then an appropriate sanction is given using the *Cheltenham Bournside School, Ladder of Consequences*. Further failure to submit subsequent pieces of homework are sanctioned using the *Ladder of Consequences* and appropriate intervention (Academic/Pastoral) may then be implemented.
- 4.2 The 'completion of homework' and 'standard of homework' are both reported on for all students at four points during the academic year. (Three points for Years 11, 12 and 13) All students are carefully tracked in relation to both of the above areas, by academic and pastoral staff. Any student who is demonstrating a cause for concern receives appropriate intervention.