



HOMEWORK POLICY

Last Review:	March 2017
Committee:	Learning
Date Ratified:	18 th May 2017
Next Review:	March 2019

Rationale

Sir William Romney's School believes that homework is an invaluable opportunity for students to enrich their class learning, explore topics in greater depth and work independently with a range of media. This policy aims to set out the methods and processes by which we facilitate our homework.

Definition

Homework is any piece of learning which takes place outside of the usual classroom environment.

Aims

This policy is intended to support the following aims:

- To raise the achievement of students through effective homework experiences
- To encourage our students to be independent, lifelong learners
- To complement other school policies in creating independent, lifelong learners.
- To give clear procedures and guidelines for students, teachers and parents/carers on homework **at Sir William Romney's school.**

Purposes of Homework

At Sir William Romney's we set purposeful homework that has clear learning and skill development outcomes. The purpose of good homework is to:

- Encourage independent learning
- Develop research skills
- To support the student/parent/teacher partnership
- Consolidate class learning
- Practise learning through doing.

Appropriate Homework Activities

Homework **should be an integral part of each department's schemes of work. It supports and extends** the current learning topics or relevant skills. Appropriate homework tasks could be:

- Essay writing
- Interviews / questionnaires
- Presentations
- Research / investigations
- Projects
- Drawing / designing
- Model making
- Embedding class learning e.g. vocabulary or Mathematics questions.

The Amount and Type of Homework Set

Key Stage 3

All subjects are set homework on a carousel basis each year. These carousel homework pieces will all follow the format and guidelines agreed in the Homework Charter detailed here:

Sir William Romney's Homework charter

All pieces of homework must have

- 1) Clear outline of the task/tasks (ideally with an element of choice)
- 2) Differentiated (offering help for the lower ability and a sense of challenge for all)
- 3) Incorporate an element of literacy and / or numeracy
- 4) Success criteria (with reference to the literacy and or numeracy elements)
- 5) Success criteria in relation to resilience (house points) Score of 1-3

Suggested layout

* Title, Subject and Year group

* Task options/instructions

* Success criteria (assessment/outcome wise and resilience) – Ideally these should incorporate the literacy or numeracy element.

* Additional help / differentiation / challenge (possibly further reading or resources that could be used)

* Homework should support and extend what you are covering in class.

* Ample time should be allowed in class when set to go through the homework and the success criteria (this can sometimes take as long as 15 minutes). You may also want to look at past examples if possible.

* Homework should be one of the key pieces that are deep marked and the literacy policy should be followed. Ideally, work should be returned to students within 2 weeks, with feedback taking the form of WWW and EBI comments which the students respond to.

Each student will receive three pieces of extended learning to complete in each fortnightly window. The minimum timings for each piece of extended learning are given below:

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
Extended learning (per piece of work)	1hour 15mins	1hour 30mins	2hours

This homework can be completed at any time during the fortnightly window; its completion does not need to be spread across the ten school nights. However, as an approximate guide for reference, this equates to 22.5 minutes of homework each school night for Year 7, 27 minutes for Year 8, and 36 minutes for Year 9

Key Stage 4

Students are set weekly homework pieces in each subject during their key stage 4 courses, with each piece lasting for a minimum of 40 minutes. The nature of the Key Stage 4 subjects are such that each needs a time allocation every week for homework.

Supporting the Completion of Homework

As a school we provide an environment where all students are supported whatever their ability or special need. For those students who need an environment conducive to learning and the support and encouragement from adults, the afterschool Homework club runs twice a week and provides a

supportive environment for students to work independently on homework pieces. The school librarian prepares hints and tips on getting started with each extended project and will assist with researching topics. Tutors and Learning Managers support students through assembly discussions and tutor time sessions so that intervention and support can be put in place to pre-empt any sanction being necessary. Support for Learning will use intervention sessions to work on homework pieces and will support students with Special Educational Needs in completing their homework.

Support from Parents/Carers

Support from parents/carers is crucial in providing the right environment for the students to complete their homework and in encouraging them to spend at least the required amount of time on the piece of learning. Parents are emailed at the start of each fortnight with the homework pieces for their child for that session. This will allow parents/carers to support students more effectively in completing their homework. Parents/carers can and should contact teaching staff or their **son/daughter's tutor if they have any queries or questions about supporting their child in completing their learning.**

Sanctions for Non-Completion

It is essential that all students benefit from the rich learning experiences of completing the homework tasks, non-completion will therefore be followed up by sanctions which provide time and opportunity for the piece of work to be completed.

The following sanctions will be applied:

Extended learning

If a student fails to meet a homework deadline they are given a 48 hour extension and a warning that if the piece of work is not handed in within this time, the student will be issued with an afterschool detention from the class Teacher. The student is also not able to receive any house points for the piece of work if it is handed in late. Their parents/carers are sent a text message which informs them that the piece of work has not been handed in and about the sanctions that will follow if the piece of work is not handed in. An afterschool detention then follows if the homework is not handed in.

Weekly homework pieces at key stage 4

The afterschool detention is set following three pieces of work not being handed in or completed to a good standard in any one term by the class teacher.

The school will endeavour, whenever possible, to assist the student in completing their learning in order to pre-empt any sanctions being necessary.

Monitoring homework

Teachers will:

- Set homework in their subject in accordance with the timetable. Homework pieces will be **purposeful and activities such as those mentioned in 'Appropriate homework activities' section of this document.**
- Ensure that the pieces of homework set in key stage 3 follow the Homework Charter as detailed in **'The amount and type of homework set' section above.**
- Mark and return work to students in a reasonable time, providing purposeful feedback with notes on how to improve.
- Ensure that students write their homework into their student planners.

Tutors will:

- Display the homework pieces on their tutor boards and take time in tutor sessions to discuss the work and to support students in completion of the work where possible.
- Intervene as appropriate (see sanction guidelines) if students are failing in more than one subject to complete their extended learning.
- Seek support for the student in completing their homework if necessary.

Learning Managers will:

- Intervene as appropriate (see sanction guidelines) if students are failing in more than one subject to complete their extended learning.
- Seek support for students in completing their homework if necessary.

Senior Leadership Team will:

- Ensure that departments are setting homework as per the timetables by periodic checking of student planners.

- Monitor all aspects of this policy.