



Homework Policy

1. Rationale and Aim

This policy aims to set out the key principles for homework at Samuel Whitbread Academy (SWA). Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study and is not directly supervised by a teacher. However, not all homework will be done at home, in fact for some students who find it difficult to work at home, or for tasks which require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it may be necessary or more desirable to carry out the task at school, during lunchtime or in after school clubs.

Homework is a way of preparing for, consolidating and extending the learning that takes place in school. The new Teachers' Standards says teachers should 'set homework and plan other out-of-class activities to consolidate and extend the knowledge and understanding pupils have acquired'. [Research](#) funded by the Education Endowment Foundation has shown that homework which is purposeful, focused and linked to the Scheme of Learning has a positive impact on students' learning. Information from a recent survey of parents, including one-to-one telephone interviews, also suggests that parents feel homework is an important part of the learning process.

2. Policy

At SWA we believe homework is an essential part of students' learning and will be used to reinforce, consolidate and extend the learning that takes place in school. It will allow students to take ownership of their own learning and encourage them to develop the skills of independent learning, with the confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own. It will also provide opportunities for parents to play an active role in their children's education, to be involved in the management of their children's learning and to be kept informed about the work their child is doing in school. There is an expectation that parents/carers will support home working and provide a calm working environment at home.

3. Procedure

Homework at SWA will be guided by the following key principles and procedures:

- Advice and guidelines on both the content and expectations of homework tasks will be made available by SWA on the academy websites and/or Show My Homework (SHMW).
- Homework will be set by teachers that enable students to achieve a variety of different outcomes. This may include researching topics and preparing for future lessons or to apply and demonstrate what they have learnt in class. It should provide opportunities for students to practice their new skills and enable teachers to assess students' understanding of new knowledge and their ability to apply new skills independently.
- A minimum requirement for the number/amount of homework set will be stipulated by each department and be incorporated into their assessment calendars.
- The homework tasks will be planned and integrated into the Schemes of Learning.
- Specific feedback will be given on literacy and numeracy skills at every opportunity.

Key Principles

This policy is based upon a 'quality not quantity' approach.

- Homework is set through the SHMW website.
- Homework will usually be set at the 'Apply to Demonstrate' or 'Review' phase of the learning cycle. This will allow teachers to assess students' understanding of new skills and knowledge learned during lesson time.
- Guidelines on how to successfully complete homework tasks are available on SHMW.
- Homework which is assessed formatively, either by the teacher or peer assessed, will have written feedback given on a 'what went well (WWW)' and 'even better if (EBI)' basis.
- Students will be given an opportunity (usually within lessons) to act upon this feedback and to have a chance to improve their work through 'My response is' (MRI)
- The homework tasks are planned and integrated into the Schemes of Learning.
- Feedback on literacy and numeracy skills demonstrated through homework task will also be given, where appropriate, using the relevant policies.

English, Maths and Science Year 9

Achievement in these core subjects is vital to provide a foundation for academic success. These departments begin teaching the GCSE scheme of work in Year 9. They are expected to set a minimum of one formatively assessed task every 6 lessons, from the start of Year 9, following the key principles above.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team member responsible for Teaching and Learning and/or Assessment will monitor and evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Homework Policy. Delivery of the policy will primarily be the responsibility of Key Stage Leaders, Heads of Year, Heads of Departments and Heads of Subject. They will be responsible for monitoring that homework has been set, that records are kept of the standard and amount of homework set and that useful formative feedback has been given and acted upon.

5. Implementation and Review

This policy will be made known to all staff, parents/carers and governors, and it will be published on the academy website. Copies will also be available upon request from SWA. This policy will be reviewed two yearly, or as required, in response to changes to Government Policy etc.

6. Author and Date

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