



SILCOATES

Independent education for boys and girls aged 3-18

Homework Policy (Senior School)

Homework is any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. It is not explicitly only work done at home, as homework may be undertaken within school, through using facilities such as the Learning Resource Hub and the ICT suites. Homework is an integral part of the School's academic programme.

The purpose of homework is:

- To encourage students to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own.
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding.
- To extend individual learning, for example through additional reading.
- To enable students to devote time to particular demands, such as GCSE coursework or project work.
- To support the home/school relationship.

Timetables

The homework timetable is published in September, based on the academic timetable. It is as much a part of the curriculum as the lessons themselves and is therefore compulsory.

The time spent on homework is commensurate with the age of the pupil/student, and the following are the expected guidelines:

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| Year 7 | 20 minutes per subject |
| Year 8 | 30 minutes per subject |
| Year 9 | 30 minutes per subject |
| Year 10 | 40 minutes per subject |
| Year 11 | 45 minutes per subject |

Teachers set homework on the timetabled night and this is recorded on Firefly. The homework is due in the **next day**, unless the teacher specifies a different time.

Homework should be titled, dated and completed to the best efforts of the pupil following the requirements of the different subjects. Teachers assess the work in line with departmental/examination policy and keep a record of all marks.

If, for any reason, a pupil is unable to do their homework, then a note from a parent should be sent to the tutor, who communicates with the relevant subject staff. If it is due to difficulty with the work, then the pupil must seek help from the teacher and complete the homework once guidance has been given. If a pupil is absent, then it is their responsibility to catch up with the work missed.

Although there is no formal timetable in Years 12 and 13, students are expected to devote approximately six hours per week outside lessons to each subject. They are also encouraged, in addition, to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge.

Types of Homework

The nature of the homework will naturally vary between subjects and year groups. However, over the course of a year, it is intended that a wide range of homework tasks will be set for pupils to complete. These might include:

- Writing assignments
- Learning assignments
- Preparation for an oral presentation
- Reading in preparation for a lesson
- Finding out information or researching a project

Responsibilities

Subject Teachers

- The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate homework in a clear and understandable fashion and ensuring that this is then entered as a Task on Firefly.
- Marking homework tasks forms an integral part of teacher assessment and so the teacher will aim to return marked homework to pupils as soon as possible for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupils' minds.

Pupils

- Pupils are responsible for ensuring that deadlines are kept. If they are absent, they need to look on Firefly to find out what work has been missed and catch up: being away on the day that the homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary, pupils should see the member of staff concerned for help.

Parents

- Parents should support pupils with their homework but accept that their role will become less important as their child becomes more responsible and independent.
- Parents should try and provide a reasonable place where their child can work or encourage them to make use of the School's facilities.
- Parents should encourage pupils to meet homework deadlines and, if they feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the Tutor, who will investigate the situation.

Sanctions

We expect homework tasks to be completed and to be handed in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not given in, appropriate action is taken, as outlined in the School's Behaviour, Rewards and Sanctions Policy (Senior School).

Plagiarism, the submitting of work for marking that has been copied from another pupil, downloaded from the internet or copied directly from a text, is expressly forbidden and all suspected cases of collusion or copying will be thoroughly investigated and, where necessary, appropriate sanctions applied.

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| Reviewed by: | Mrs Dews – Deputy Head (Academic) | | |
| Date of last review: | June 2021 | Date of next review: | June 2022 |