



Park Vale Academy Homework Policy

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The homework policy is for the academy to officially document and communicate their process for homework. The policy outlines what is expected of teachers when setting homework, from students in completing home learning tasks and from parents in support their child.

Rationale

At Park Vale Academy, we believe that home learning plays a vital role in extending and supporting students' learning opportunities. Consequently, homework is set by all subject areas across all year groups.

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study and is crucially important in raising student achievement by enabling students to develop essential study skills pivotal to academic success.

The academy does not have a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings as homework should be set when required not simply because it's timetabled. Students will need to learn to manage their time so that they do some homework each evening. Teachers will not normally set homework to be completed for the next day, but will give students at least two days to complete the homework. The time devoted to homework will increase as the

student progresses through the academy. We ensure that all our students are supported in the completion of homework through after school study and support groups which are run weekly for each year group. We are firmly committed to positively acknowledging students' homework efforts - this is reflected in our Academy's reward policy.

Aims

We believe that homework should be both meaningful and worthwhile and designed to extend the learning of the student outside the classroom and to:

- extend and support classwork
- provide retrieval practice
- consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- develop the skills of an Independent Learner
- develop skills and attributes such as resilience, accountability and motivation
- develop time management and organisational skills essential in life, post 16 learning and work

Types of Homework

Reading is an important skill that supports all learning. Research demonstrates that good readers achieve more in all subjects – including maths. Good readers are also proven to be happier, more confident and have better health. The evidence is clear: the more your child reads, the better they read, the better their life chances will be. For this reason, **all year 7 and 8 students read for at least 15 minutes every day in school. All students are also required to read for an hour a week at home.** This could be in one chunk or several shorter sessions throughout the week.

To support effective reading, students have a reading bookmark. They should record what they have read on their bookmark. You can support by asking to see the bookmark, asking them about the book they are reading, or even reading with your child. When students have finished a book, they must complete a test on Accelerated Reader.

Homework tasks should be achievable for each student and offer the appropriate level of challenge and support. Homework tasks set must be logged on the electronic homework system and submission or non-submission recorded accordingly. An after-school detention will be issued for non-completion.

The use of digital learning platforms are proven to reduce teacher workload, provide immediate learner feedback, track and analyse learning and better engage our learners. The academy will use an agreed set of digital platforms at KS3 and support learners to develop their digital competences. At KS4 a wider range of platforms will be used. Tasks include memory and retrieval practice, exam preparation, exam answer practice, and pre-reading. Some non-digital tasks may be implemented according to specific subject need.

Expectations

Homework should avoid excessive time requirements – focusing on quality rather than quantity and making sure that there is a clear purpose to any homework set. The amount of homework will increase as a student progresses through the academy and as they work on coursework or prepare for assessments. The academy's expectations are shown below but subjects may, where they feel appropriate, set additional homework tasks.

The main platforms used will be Sparxs Maths, Educake, Seneca Learning, Sparxs Reader and GCSEPod and Languagenut. Additional subject specific platforms may also be used where appropriate. A range of tasks will be set by subjects, including those which ask students to prepare for assessments and tests within class by revising content being studied. As homework is often preparatory work for lessons, the work that students do may not be marked by their teacher, but it will be checked: not doing it will leave them behind their peers in lessons.

Years 7 & 8

- Maths, English and Science will set homework weekly.
- Geography, History, and Spanish/French will set homework fortnightly
- Art, Computing, Drama, DT, Music, RE – one subject per half term, on a rotation basis shown below.

Year 7

Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
IT	RE	Art	DT	Drama	Music

Year 8

Half term 1	Half term 2	Half term 3	Half term 4	Half term 5	Half term 6
DT	Music	Drama	IT	RE	Art

Year 9

- Maths, English and Science will set homework weekly.
- RE will be set homework fortnightly
- Geography, History, and Spanish/French will set homework fortnightly
- Art, Computing, Drama/Music, DT and IT – one homework per term.

Years 10 and 11

- All subjects will set homework weekly.

The length of time each homework task takes will be kept to a minimum. Research has shown that quality shorter digital tasks can be equally as effective and allow more family and personal time for our students.

How is homework set?

The teacher will verbally set the homework in the lesson and inform students that it has been set on Class Charts. Clear instructions will be given verbally/Class Charts including which digital platform to access, due by date and aim of homework.

Students who were not in lesson when the homework was set are still expected to complete the task and meet the deadline as the work is shown and assessable on Class Charts.

Monitoring of Homework

- Student Rewards – Students will be rewarded for their homework in a variety of ways in line with the academy rewards policy.

- Student Sanctions – If students do not complete homework, they will receive sanctions in line with the academy behaviour policy. Students who fail to complete homework by the agreed deadline will receive an after-school detention.
- Homework completion **will be** recorded on Class Charts.
- Monitoring of Homework – academy leaders monitor through a variety of quality assurance procedures will regularly check the quality of homework. Heads of Departments will ensure that appropriate homework is being set regularly and marked if required

The Role of the Student

- ✦ To accept that deadlines must be met.
- ✦ To complete tasks to an acceptable standard.
- ✦ Complete/Hand in homework on time.
- ✦ If absent, they need to find out the homework set from Class Charts and complete it. **Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it.**
- ✦ Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary students should see the member of staff concerned for help or message them on Class Charts.
- ✦ To take pride in doing their best.

The Role of the Parent

The role of the parent is crucial if a student is to experience success from homework. Parents can assist by:

- ✦ Reinforcing the value of homework through positive discussions with their child to give them the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.
- ✦ Encourage and praise their child when homework is completed.
- ✦ Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
- ✦ Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free play is important too.
- ✦ Remind them of when homework is due.
- ✦ To support sanctions applied if homework is not completed.
- ✦ Support their child to attend homework club after school if non-completion of homework is happening on a regular basis.

Digital Homework System

Our system will allow parents and students to see what homework has been set by their teachers, accompanying instructions and advice, links to supporting documents (e.g. video clips), and when the homework is due in. Some teachers may allow students to submit their homework electronically through the site and may also choose to share feedback through the website. The system, currently Class Charts, also enables parents to see if homework has been completed.

Students and parents can access the website by using the Class Charts App or links on the website. Parents should login using the pin provided by to them by the academy. There is also a free app for Class Charts that can be downloaded via iTunes and Google Play stores. The app allows users to access their homework on a variety of mobile devices. These apps also can provide alerts/reminders of upcoming homework deadlines.