Upton-by-Chester High School

Homework Policy

Policy Link	
SLT	Mrs E Bradbury
Governor	
Statutory	No

To	Date
Committee	Curriculum
Full Governing Body	September 2026
Next Review	September 2029
Make available on:	**Yes/ No**
School website	Yes
Staff shared area	Yes

'Learning to shape the future'

Homework

Research indicates that homework for secondary learners has an excellent impact, which can advance learning by an additional 5 months of progress over a year (EEF, 2021).

The purpose of homework is to further improve a learner's knowledge, skills and understanding and is an integral part of our curriculum. It is important in raising learner achievement. We work in partnership with our parents and carers to support learners in the completion of homework. To support the completion of homework we run a daily homework club Monday to Thursday 3.10pm to 4.30pm and on a Friday till 4.00pm, in the Hub.

Objectives

- To encourage learners to develop the practice of independent study to support progress.
- To develop perseverance and self-discipline.
- To enable learners to learn through the practice of skills acquired in the classroom.
- To permit more rapid progress to be made by each individual.
- To enable class work to concentrate on those activities requiring the teacher's presence.
- To open up areas of study and to make possible the use of materials and sources available outside the classroom.
- To encourage learners to enjoy the skills, concepts and experiences related to each subject.
- To encourage learners to talk, discuss and research using the rich variety of resources which our community can provide.

Teachers will:

- share homework tasks via Show My Homework
- make the purpose of homework clear to learners (e.g., to increase a specific area of knowledge, or to develop fluency in a particular area).
- set regular, short, relevant and achievable tasks which facilitate learning and do not require parental/carer support
- set homework that is linked to classroom work
- monitor completion and provide feedback on the homework, in lessons
- set extended tasks/projects in stages and check the progress that the learner is making at each stage
- consider learners' access to resources; be that financial, time, equipment or parental/carer involvement.
- promote homework club to learners (Mr Ryan in the Hub after school each day)
- give adequate time to complete homework (at least 48 hrs).
- inform parents if there is an issue with the quality or completion of homework.
- Record a '?' (question mark symbol) on the register when homework is late/incomplete.

Learners are expected to:

- check details of homework on Show My Homework, daily
- complete homework to the best of their ability
- hand in their homework on time

Parents/Carers

Research tells us that where parents and carers support learners with their homework completion, the average impact is about an additional four months' progress over the course of a year. There are also higher impacts for learners with low prior attainment (EEF, 2023).

Parents/Carers can help support the completion of homework by:

- discussing homework with learners
- providing a quiet space, away from distractions, for learners to complete their work at home
- checking the Show My Homework App to monitor homework which is due and ensuring no homework becomes overdue
- communicating any issues or concerns to school regarding homework, via the class teacher in the first instance
- assisting learners with their learning
- ensuring learners have all the necessary resources to complete the homework and contacting school to let us know if we can support
- celebrating completion of homework
- ensuring mobile phones are switched off and in another room during homework completion
- encouraging attendance to homework club

Types of homework

Homework will vary in nature depending on the subject and Key Stage.
For example, learners may be asked to:

- finish a piece of work
- use retrieval to go over previously taught content
- revise for a short quiz or assessment
- complete an online quiz which is self-marking
- complete a worksheet
- produce an extended written response
- conduct reading
- complete exam/assessment questions

Frequency of Homework:

Homework at Upton-by-Chester High school is planned into the curriculum to build and extend learners' knowledge. The frequency will vary based on the year group, subject and Key Stage. For example, as learners progress through Key Stage 4 and 5, homework will progressively become revision activities in preparation for the examinations. If learners have mid-year or end of year assessments approaching, typically the majority of homework leading up to these will be revision activities to help learners consolidate knowledge.

Non-completion of homework

If a learner does not complete a piece of homework adequately, or on time, then an ATL grade '?' (question mark symbol) is assigned to the register. The class teacher will address non-completion of homework, which may involve either: an extension to hand in the work the following day or a catch-up referral. Persistent lack of homework or non-completion of homework will be referred to the Head of Department who will issue a curriculum referral. Catch-up sessions and referrals will be clearly communicated with the learner, and parents/carers via an email.

Non-attendance to a homework curriculum referral set by the Head of Department will escalate to a Senior Leadership team referral (1.5hrs) on a Friday evening.

If homework is repeatedly not completed adequately, or on time, a more bespoke follow up from teachers and Heads of Department will be actioned. This will involve communicating and working with parents/carers to identify the challenges and putting supportive mechanisms in place.

Parents/Carers can monitor non-completion of homework though the '?' symbols on Edulink.

Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, learners and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Bard. Upton-by-Chester High School recognises that AI has many uses to help learners learn, but may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism.

Learners **may not** use AI tools:

- During assessments, including internal and external assessments, and coursework
- To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work

Learners **may** use AI tools:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images. All AI-generated content must be properly attributed

Upton-by-Chester High School considers any attributed use of AI-generated text or imagery to be plagiarism, and will follow our plagiarism procedures as set out in our exam policy.

Key Stage 3 Setting Guidance

English	1 X 30 minute per week private reading 1 X 30 - 45 minute piece per fortnight
Mathematics	2 x 20-30 minute pieces per fortnight
Science	up to 3 x 20-30 minute pieces per fortnight
French/Spanish	2 x 20 minute pieces per fortnight
Geography	1 x 20 minute pieces per fortnight
History	2-3 pieces per half-term
RE	1 x 20 minute piece per fortnight
Design Technology	1 x 20 minutes every 3 lessons
Drama/Music	1 x 20 minutes pieces per fortnight
Art	1 x 30-40 minute homework per fortnight. Homework can be, Research, Collecting or Drawing tasks.
Computer Science	1 x 20-30 minute piece per fortnight

Key Stage 4 Setting Guidance

English	up to 2 x 30-45 minute pieces per week
Mathematics	2 x 30-45 minute pieces per fortnight
Science	3 x 20-30 minute pieces per week
Geography	1 x 20 minute piece per week
Computer Science	1 x 30-45 minute piece per week
Business	Year 10 1x 30 minutes per week Y11 revision programme 1 hour per week and then testing
Drama	Y10 1 x 30 minute piece per week Y11 1x 60 minutes per week
Art/Graphics/ Photography	2 x 40 minutes per fortnight.
History	1-2 pieces per fortnight
Media Studies	1 x 30 min piece per week
French/Spanish	2 x 30 minute or 1 x 60 per week depending on tasks
Physical Education	1 x 30-45 minute piece per week
Dance	1 x 30-45 minute piece per week
Philosophy and Ethics	Yr 10 1 x 30 minute piece per week Yr 11 follow a revision programme 1 hr per week
Design Technology (Food/Health and Social Care/Textiles)	1 x 20-30 minutes piece per week