

Top Ten Questions about Homework

What can I do if my child is stuck on their homework?

If your child is struggling with their homework its a good idea to go back over the task with them to ensure that they understand. If you feel that you can help them then please do so, but avoid completing the work for them. The student should also have time to go and speak to the teacher who has set the homework. An alternative is to contact a friend in the same class who has been set the same task, or maybe an older sibling who may remember doing something similar. This is why it is best to do homework on the day that it is set so that they will have the time to check on any problems.

How much am I expected to help my child?

There is usually no expectation for you to help your child, unless they are struggling with the work and you feel that you are able to help them. Most work should be able to be completed individually. There are exceptions where the homework may be to discuss something with you, or find out something from you.

How do I know what homework has been set for my child?

All homework is set on line using '*showmyhomework*'. The homework is outlined in detail, stating how long a student should spend on completing it and the date it is due in. Related resources to support the completion of homework are attached. Copies of any worksheets are given to the student during the lesson. You have access to '*showmyhomework*' via an individual log-in and you are able to view all the homework set for your child if any homework is overdue.

How long should a piece of homework take?

In years 7, 8 and 9 most tasks will take around 30 minutes to complete, though this is only a rough guide as it depends on the student. Pieces will vary in length depending on the nature of the task; however students in year 7 should not be routinely receiving homework tasks which take much longer than this. If you feel that your child has worked hard enough on a piece of work but has been unable to complete it then please put a note in their planner to let the teacher know.

In Years 10 & 11 homework tasks should take about 45 minutes to complete.

Do all subjects set homework on a weekly basis?

No. Most subjects will set a piece of homework a week, though there are exceptions. Technology set a longer project based task each half term; Art set a project once each term and performing Arts (Music and Drama) set a piece of homework per unit of work. No homework is set in PE.

In Years 10 and 11 English, maths and science set two homework tasks per week

What can I do if I feel my child is getting too much/not enough homework?

If you feel that the amount of homework being set for your child is too much or they are not being set enough please contact their Progress Tutor. They will have an overview of the student and will be able to identify why this is the case. They can then go about contacting the class teachers to help resolve the issue.

Why do I need to check and sign the planner?

The planner is a key tool for communication between home and school. It should be signed on a weekly basis by both parents and the Progress Tutor. It will also ensure that you are aware of any other notes from the class teachers or Progress tutors which may be recorded in the planner. This could include information about equipment, events or behaviour.

Where should my child do their homework?

Every child works differently, but it is best to work in a quiet and clear environment for example a dining room table or desk. It would be very helpful for them to work wherever they are unlikely to be disturbed. They should only be accessing the computer if it is necessary for the task. Sitting in front of the TV/ on Facebook/ on a mobile phone can be very disruptive for work and can make it take a lot longer and be of a lower quality.

What should I do if I think my child is receiving homework that is too hard/easy for them?

If you think the work is not at the right level then the best person to contact would be the Progress Tutor who will then speak to the teacher that set the work. It may be that the task was designed to stretch the class, or to ensure that they all consolidated the learning in the lesson. Some tasks may also be designed to prepare students for the next lesson, and this may be an easier task though very valuable.

How else can I help my child with their school work other than through doing their homework?

There are many other ways to develop your child's learning outside the classroom. Always encourage them to read a wide variety of texts – newspapers, magazines, books - and it helps to

demonstrate that you are a reader too. Encourage them to watch TV programmes on subjects they may be studying or that may be on a subject that you think will interest them. It is also very important to talk to your child about their day and what they have learnt. You could even ask them to teach you about it - the best way to learn is to teach someone else.

What are the consequences of my child not doing their homework?

If homework is not done your child is missing out on key work. It may be work to test skills, consolidate knowledge or prepare for the next lesson. If homework is not done your child can expect to receive a short detention. If it becomes a regular occurrence longer detentions and further sanctions may be imposed.