

# Birkdale High School



Birkdale  
High School

Aspire - Thrive - Succeed

## Homework Policy



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*Date of Policy:* February 2016  
*Members of staff responsible:* SLT  
*Review date:* February 2017

### **Rationale**

Homework is an essential part of pupils' learning and when regularly set and properly done, can add a substantial amount of study time over a five-year school career. It can enhance a pupil's understanding of each of his subjects at Birkdale, thereby benefiting his intellectual development.

To engage parental support in pupil success, this is vital in helping to create high expectations and providing the basis for developing independent learning skills and habits which will benefit lifelong learning.

### **Aim**

Birkdale's Homework Policy aims to:

- review and consolidate the learning for pupils.
- develop personal learning and thinking skills essential to success, not only in education, but also in life.
- develop key skills and attitudes to allow pupils to become responsible, resilient and reasoned in their approach to their learning.
- develop reflective, resourceful and more self-confident individuals.
- prepare pupils to manage the demands of secondary education, such as preparation for linear exams and the completion of GCSE coursework.
- inform teachers of pupil progress and give valuable feedback which will inform future learning.
- encourage the involvement of parents and carers in the management of their children's learning.

We are conscious that, for some of our pupils, home study is difficult because some pupils are themselves carers for siblings and, in a few cases, for parent(s)/guardian(s). Not every home can provide a quiet place in which to study and work and so, for those pupils particularly, but also for any others who feel they might benefit, the school runs homework and study clubs for different age groups.

See appendix 2 for days, times and locations.

### **Objectives**

- Homework will be of appropriate intellectual challenge.
- It will be set regularly according to agreed guidelines.
- It will be marked in a way that will help pupil progress.
- Homework that is not done will be followed up.

## Setting of homework

All teaching staff, following guidelines agreed within their department, will set homework. Guidance will be given to pupils about what is expected from them, particularly in Year 7, and the purpose of the homework. The intellectual challenge of the homework will be commensurate with the pupils' ability. Differentiated tasks will be set according to group or even individual aptitude. There will be a variety of work set, including written tasks, reading, preparation, research and revision. Homework should not be set for the sake of occupying the pupil or finishing classwork; but should have a link with reinforcing or developing work being done or about to be done in class.

Homework will be set on Show My Homework (SMHW), visible to all pupils and parents, complete with instructions for completion and deadline. All staff, pupils and parents will have a login provided to access their own personal area of SMHW.

The planners will remain as a supportive tool, in particular for those without easy access to the internet for SMHW. Pupils can still record details of the homework they are set in their pupil planner, together with the date due for handing it in. Parents and form tutors should check and sign the pupil planner each week.

Homework will be set of appropriate frequency and duration specified in the homework timetable. (See appendix 1) This is as it stands for 2015 to 2016 is according to the tables below. Note that these are changed every year.

### Guidelines to practice for staff

- Give appropriate time to complete longer tasks.
- When setting homework over a holiday period, plan for the deadline to be the second lesson back.
- Avoid setting homework in the final few minutes of a lesson.

## Marking of homework

Teachers are not expected to formally mark each piece of homework, they are however expected to recognise its completion. For marked tasks feedback should be given to pupils promptly and should highlight the pupil's strengths (STR – strengths) and how the task could be improved (EBI – even better if). Time will be provided for pupils to reflect on feedback and take action where appropriate. Parents will be kept informed about their son's homework; the task that has been set, feedback (including grades / levels where appropriate) and non-completion of homework. Further and more detailed information relating to the marking of homework is addressed in a separate document, the Marking Policy.

## Assessment for Learning

The principles of Assessment for Learning [AFL] should be put into practice when marking and assessing work done by pupils. For more details about AFL principles, see the Teaching and Learning Policy and the Marking Policy.

## Follow up of homework

All homework that is set should be handed in and it is the pupil's responsibility to ensure this. However, it is also incumbent on the teacher to chase up homework that is late coming in, rather than to only focus on marking work that is handed in punctually.

Pupils who do not hand in homework should be given appropriate sanctions by the subject teacher. If a detention is given, it may be appropriate for the pupil to catch up with the homework in that designated time. Pupils should be urged to hand in late homework until they do so. Where intervention is required class teachers should (via the planner, email, letter or phone call) alert parents of concerns regarding the completion/quality of homework more regularly if they feel it is appropriate.

If a pupil continues to fail to hand in a piece of work, or if a pupil regularly hands in separate pieces of work late, he should be referred to the Head of department. If the problem persists across a number of

subjects, pupils will be referred to the pastoral homework support system to provide strategies to support engaging or organising the pupils to complete homework. Parents will be informed of each pupil's attitude to homework as part of each tracking point. See the Behaviour Policy for further guidance on sanctions.

### **Homework monitoring**

At regular intervals throughout the year, heads of department will monitor the homework being set in their department via SMHW. In addition to this and as a model for heads of department to base their monitoring on, there will be 5 occasions in the school year when the senior leadership team will monitor homework across all departments. SLT will assess Homework for their Departments based on Ofsted criteria and scores.

A variety of aspects will be looked at, such as:

- Amount set
- Frequency
- Intellectual challenge
- Appropriateness to ability
- How much help is allowed
- How late homework is chased up
- Quality of marking
- Consistency of marking

Regular monitoring meetings between SLT and Heads of Department as well as Head and SLT monitor the impact of homework.

### **Dissemination of the policy**

Heads of department and governors will receive an updated copy of the policy. The policy will be placed in the staff handbook.

### **Policy review**

SLT, with the help of Curriculum Committee, will review the policy every year. Any recommendations will be submitted to the governors for consideration.

## Appendix 1

| Subject         | KS3   | KS4  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Art             | 60 minutes per fortnight  | 60 minutes per week  |
| Drama           | 1 x 30 minutes per month.   | 2 x 60 minutes per fortnight.  |
| All DT subjects | 60 minutes per fortnight  | 120 minutes per fortnight  |
| English         | 60 minutes per week   | 60-120 minutes per week  |
| Geography       | Year 7: 20 minutes every other lesson<br>Years 8 and 9: 30 minutes every other lesson                           | 45-60 minutes each week  |
| History         | Year 7: 20 minutes every other lesson<br>Years 8 and 9: 30 minutes every other lesson                           | 45-60 minutes each week  |
| ICT             | 1 x 30 minute homework a fortnight  | 2 x 30 minute homeworks a fortnight when not doing controlled assessment.                                  |
| Maths           | Upper band: 60 minutes per fortnight<br>Lower band: 40 minutes per fortnight                                    | Higher 90 minutes per fortnight<br>Foundation 60 minutes per fortnight                                     |
| MFL             | Year 7: 60 minutes per fortnight<br>Year 8: 70 minutes per fortnight<br>Year 9: 80 minutes per fortnight        | 60 minutes per week  |
| Music           | Years 7 and 8 two pieces per half term<br>Year 9 one piece per half term (fortnightly lessons)<br>20-30 minutes | KS4 Minimum 120 minutes instrumental practice per week PLUS<br>Up to 60 minutes issued from class lessons. |
| PE              |   | Year 10 BTEC 60 minutes per week<br>Year 10/11 GCSE 60 minutes per week                                    |
| RE              | One per fortnight   | One per fortnight  |
| Science         | 20 minutes per subject over fortnight, total of 60 minutes.   | 30 minutes per subject over fortnight, total of 90 minutes.  |

## Appendix 2 - Timetable of homework clubs / study sessions / intervention groups

We have a number of sessions running before, during and after school, please see the details below. (As of September 2014)

There will be a number of sessions which will be targeted for certain times of the year run by different departments and the times for these will be released when required by Heads of Department or individual staff.

### Before school

| Day              | Subject/details                                     | Year(s) | Location        | Staff    | Specific timings |
|------------------|---|---------|-----------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>U5 (ICT)</b> | Mr Leece | 7.30 – 8.30      |
|                  | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>      | TA team  | 7.15 – 8.35      |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>U5 (ICT)</b> | Mr Leece | 7.30 – 8.30      |
|                  | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>      | TA team  | 7.15 – 8.45      |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>U5 (ICT)</b> | Mr Leece | 7.30 – 8.30      |
|                  | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>      | TA team  | 7.15 – 8.45      |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>U5 (ICT)</b> | Mr Leece | 7.30 – 8.30      |
|                  | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>      | TA team  | 7.15 – 8.45      |
| <b>Friday</b>    | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>U5 (ICT)</b> | Mr Leece | 7.30 – 8.30      |
|                  | All subjects for <b><u>individual</u></b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>      | TA team  | 7.15 – 8.35      |

## Lunchtime

| Day              | Subject/details                       | Year(s) | Location             | Staff                            | Specific timings |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|---------|----------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Technology hwk or practical catch up. | All     | <b>B1, 2 &amp; 4</b> | Mr Milner                        | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | All subjects                          | All     | <b>U6</b>            | Miss Humphries                   | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Maths Help                            | All     | <b>U2</b>            | Mrs Thompson + Y11 top set boys. | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Art                                   | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>   | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair    | 12.25 – 1.00     |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Technology hwk or practical catch up. | All     | <b>B1, 2 &amp; 4</b> | Mr Milner                        | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | All subjects                          | All     | <b>U6</b>            | Miss Humphries                   | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Maths Help                            | All     | <b>U2</b>            | Mrs Thompson + Y11 top set boys. | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Art                                   | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>   | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair    | 12.25 – 1.00     |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Technology hwk or practical catch up. | All     | <b>B1, 2 &amp; 4</b> | Mr Milner                        | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | All subjects                          | All     | <b>U6</b>            | Miss Humphries                   | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Maths Help                            | All     | <b>U2</b>            | Mrs Thompson + Y11 top set boys. | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Art                                   | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>   | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair    | 12.25 – 1.00     |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Technology hwk or practical catch up. | All     | <b>B1, 2 &amp; 4</b> | Mr Milner                        | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | All subjects                          | All     | <b>U6</b>            | Miss Humphries                   | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Maths Help                            | All     | <b>U2</b>            | Mrs Thompson + Y11 top set boys. | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Art                                   | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>   | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair    | 12.25 – 1.00     |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Technology hwk or practical catch up. | All     | <b>B1, 2 &amp; 4</b> | Mr Milner                        | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | All subjects                          | All     | <b>U6</b>            | Miss Humphries                   | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Maths Help                            | All     | <b>U2</b>            | Mrs Thompson + Y11 top set boys. | 12.25 – 1.00     |
|                  | Art                                   | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>   | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair    | 12.25 – 1.00     |

## After school

| Day       | Subject/details                              | Year(s) | Location            | Staff                         | Specific timings |
|-----------|--|---------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Monday    | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>B4</b>           | Mr Milner                     | 3.15 – 4.15      |
|           | Technology intervention                      | KS4     | <b>B4 &amp; O16</b> | Mr Milner                     | 3.10 – 4.10      |
|           | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>          | TA team                       | 3.10 – 4.00      |
| Tuesday   | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>U4</b>           | Mr Jones                      | 3.15 – 4.15      |
|           | Technology intervention                      | KS4     | <b>B4 &amp; O16</b> | Mr Milner                     | 3.10 – 4.10      |
|           | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>          | TA team                       | 3.10 – 4.00      |
|           | Art  | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>  | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair | 3.15 – 4.15      |
| Wednesday | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>U4</b>           | Mr Leece                      | 3.15 – 4.15      |
|           | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>          | TA team                       | 3.10 – 4.00      |
|           | Art  | KS4     | <b>S1 &amp; S2</b>  | Mrs Carrington & Mrs Sinclair | 3.15 – 4.15      |
| Thursday  | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>U4</b>           | Mr Leece                      | 3.15 – 4.15      |
|           | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>          | TA team                       | 3.10 – 4.00      |
| Friday    | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>U5</b>           | Mr Spallen                    | 3.15 – 4.15      |
|           | All subjects for <b>individual</b> homework. | All     | <b>Hub</b>          | TA team                       | 3.10 – 3.45      |