

HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL



Policy Statement
on

KS3 & KS4 HOMEWORK

Drawn up by:	SJE
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Homework Key Stages 3 & 4

Homework supports learning. It consists of a series of tasks, varied according to the age and ability of students, to be completed out of lesson time. Homework is set to help students become independent learners who manage their time effectively. It is also designed to enable students to develop into independent and self-motivated learners.

As students get older, the amount of work they have to complete out of lessons increases. We hope to develop the skills they will need at Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) by starting at Key Stage 3 (Years 7, 8 and 9).

Homework is not optional. It is set to complement the work undertaken in class and it is expected that students will complete it on time.

In Year 7, students are set project-based homework according to an agreed schedule. These homework tasks may be supplemented by short (approximately 15 minute) homework tasks set by other teachers. Homework at Key Stage 3 is set in relation to the amount of subject curriculum time ie those subjects which teach students more frequently will set more homework.

In Years 8 and 9, they may take up to about 45 minutes each. Students in Year 7 will not be expected to spend more than one hour on homework a night. Those in Years 8 and 9 could expect to spend up to one and a half hours a night.

In years 10 and 11, students should expect to spend up to 2 hours per night on homework. The core GCSE subjects, namely English, mathematics and science, will set approximately 1.5 hours homework per week, whilst option subjects will set approximately one hour. This will vary according to the ability of the students and the amount of teaching time allocated to the subject. It may, on occasion, be necessary for students to do more than two hours a night to complete all tasks to the highest possible standard.

Teachers usually allow more than one evening for students to complete homework. Some may set a project to be completed over a given period of time. In this case, the subject teacher will monitor the student's progress on a weekly basis.

The tasks set may include any or all of the following:

- Using new skills.
- Learning new vocabulary, tables or information.
- Researching information from books, other media, the internet or other people.
- Carrying out an investigation to generate data.
- Occasionally, finishing off work started in class. This should only be set as a main homework task if all students in the class need additional time to complete a piece of work.
- Planning something to be completed in class.
- Reading a set book or reading for pleasure.

Written homework tasks will be marked and returned promptly, usually a maximum of 2 weeks, stating how well the student has done and giving advice on how the work could be improved (please refer to the Marking & Assessment policies).

Students will record in their planners what homework they have and when it is expected to be handed in.

We ask parents to support their children's learning by:

- Making sure that students do their homework at a suitable time in an appropriate place.
- Checking and signing planners regularly.
- Taking an interest in what is being done
- Encouraging high standards of accuracy and presentation.
- Supporting the school when punishments are used for not completing homework.

Queries about homework should be addressed to the relevant subject teacher.