

The Leigh Academy

Homework Policy 2017-18



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Rationale:

This policy statement has been produced to provide a coherent framework from which all Learning Areas can develop a consistent and effective approach for students of all ages and levels of ability.

Homework is seen as one of the principal ways in which student achievement can be raised. The benefits of doing homework must be instilled at an early age in all students, so that independent home study becomes routine. The aim of this policy document is therefore to:

- enable students to understand that independent learning is vital to achieving success
- give every student the opportunity to fulfil their potential
- instil in all students the importance of lifelong learning
- provide training for students in planning & organising time
- promote a responsibility for learning within each student

For homework to be effective it has to be stimulating and challenging whilst being supported through the quality of the teaching and learning occurring in a classroom.

Show My Homework

All homework is published on 'Show My Homework' (SMH). SMH is an online calendar to track and monitor homework that is set. Staff, students and parents are able to view the homework by simply clicking on the Show My Homework logo that can be found on the Academy website. Every student has a unique access code to retrieve the homework that is set, but students and parents can also see these homework questions on the homework calendar without having to log in. For students that do not have access to a computer at home they will be able to use Academy computers to print off the homework that has been set.

Show My Homework enables

- Teachers to post homework questions online
- Teachers to attach worksheets, web links, and video resources
- Homework questions to be more engaging and interactive

- Students and parents to see these homework questions on the homework calendar without having to log in

Apple IOS and Android/ google apps are also available. We hope you find this system highly effective as a tool for managing all aspects of homework.

Log-in details will be sent out shortly, but to start you can still check all homework set at the Academy by year group/ teacher and class by following the link on the Leigh Academy website.

For those of you unsure of how the system works there are help pages for students and parents here:

Student support – http://help.showmyhomework.co.uk/?b_id=10118

Parent support – http://help.showmyhomework.co.uk/?b_id=10119

Purposes of Homework:

There are various reasons for setting homework, examples of which are:

- To encourage and develop self-discipline, study habits and a range of skills through independent tasks
- Planning and organising time
- To get students to prepare and do some pre-learning of material prior to a lesson
- To allow reinforcing, extending and consolidating of work done in class
- To give students experience of working on their own, and to develop in students a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning
- To involve parents/carers as partners in education
- To prepare for examinations and other assessments
- To further challenge and extend High Attaining Students
- To provide focused and sustained support for less able students

Principles Underlying Homework Setting:

Students must take full responsibility for their homework and should be supported by their parents/carers.

Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities, and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable, taking account of home environment and extracurricular activities of students, including family and cultural obligations.

Homework should be a carefully planned and an integral part of coursework.

It should not be seen as an “add-on” or a dispensable extra.

Homework should match the needs and abilities of students.

Homework should promote opportunities for consolidation and extension.

Homework is related to current work, stimulating and challenging.

Students should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set i.e. they are not to complete homework where the topic has not been covered in class.

Pre-Learning tasks can be equally as important as normal homework tasks and should be included at appropriate times during the year.

Homework should not be restricted to certain subject areas. It should reflect the breadth and balance of the curriculum.

Whenever possible, homework should be set using Show My Homework.. This will enable effective tracking on monitoring of tasks by both staff and parents / carers.

Directors of Learning:

Directors of Learning must ensure that the development of homework programmes is monitored and evaluated over a Module. They must plan, prepare and implement realistic and manageable programmes of homework, maintaining accurate records within Show My Homework..

They must ensure that:

- The Academy policy is embedded firmly in Learning Area provision
- Regular monitoring and review of Learning Area provision takes place
- Teachers keep up to date records of assessment and homework completed.

Teachers:

Subject teachers should issue and monitor regularly, homework undertaken by students whilst ensuring that instructions are stated clearly. Teachers should also ensure that all homework issued is recorded within Show My Homework. Teachers must record the completion of homework in a timely manner.

If a student fails to hand homework in after 2 weeks, appropriate sanctions in line with the Academy Rewards and Consequences policy should be implemented and contact with parents should be made.

The Role of Parents/Carers:

See Appendix A for information and the handout given to all parents/carers.

The Role of Students:

At every stage, students should be encouraged to recognise the value of homework, and made fully aware of its capacity to improve learning.

Students are responsible for completion of homework to the best of their ability and on time.

Students should be encouraged to plan their programmes of study, to ensure that their workload is as evenly spread as possible.

Students should be encouraged to seek appropriate support to ensure that they are able to complete tasks set for homework.

Students must ensure they have activated their Show My Homework account for each of their subjects.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

A continuous process of monitoring the effectiveness of the Homework Policy will be carried out by Senior Leadership Team.

SLT members will regularly check the setting and completion of homework on Show My Homework.

A whole Academy evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy will be carried out regularly. This should involve consultation with staff and a sample of parents and students. Where further good practice is identified, this will be shared across The Academy.

Failure to complete homework:

Any system to ensure the completion of homework must ultimately involve working in partnership with parents/carers and the students involved.

The following system should be used to ensure a consistency of approach across all Learning Areas once the class teacher has exhausted all his/her powers of persuasion:

1. Teaching staff will offer an extended deadline to students failing to hand in their homework on the completion date.
2. If the student fails to hand the work in by the extended deadline a detention will be set to enable the student to complete this work, in accordance with The Academy consequences policy.
3. If a student fails to hand in homework 3 or more times, the teacher will then request the issue of a standard homework letter (see Appendix B)
4. If completion of homework becomes an ongoing issue, then a referral should be made to the Director of Learning who will intervene.

This will involve writing or phoning the home and speaking to parents/carers. The outcome of this intervention will be passed back to the teacher. If the Director of Learning fails to resolve the issue the matter should be escalated to the relevant college Vice Principal.

Appendix A

Checklist for Helping Your Child with Homework

Show you think Education and Homework are important:

- Set a regular time every day for homework
- Ensure your child has paper, books, pencils and other things needed to do assignments
- Set a good example by reading and writing yourself
- Stay in touch with your child's teachers
- Try and ensure that there is a quiet place in the home for homework to take place

Monitor assignments:

- Do you know what your child's homework assignments are and how long should they take?
- Do you know how the teacher wants you to be involved?
- Do you see that assignments are started and completed?
- Do you read the teacher's comments on assignments that are returned?
- Is TV viewing or use of mobile devices cutting into your child's homework time?
- Do you check Show My Homework on a regular basis?

Provide guidance:

- Understand and respect your child's style of learning
- Does he/she work better alone or with someone else? Do they learn best when he can see things, hear them, or handle them?
- Help your child to get organised. Does your child need a calendar or assignment book or a bag for books and a folder for papers?
- Encourage your child to develop good study habits (e.g. scheduling enough time for big assignments; making up practice tests)
- Do you talk with your child about homework assignments? Do they understand them?
- Do you and your child talk about plagiarism and its consequences

Talk with someone at school when problems come up:

- If a problem comes up, do you contact the teacher?
- Do you cooperate with the teacher and your child to work out a plan and schedule to fix homework problems?

Appendix B

Homework Letter (Teacher)

Dear

I am writing to inform you that _____ has failed to complete (subject) homework that was issued to the class on _____

The Leigh Academy values homework as it allows students to revise and further develop their understanding of subjects at home. This will ultimately lead to greater success in all subject areas.

I am sure that I can rely on your help in ensuring that _____ completes all future homework exercises by monitoring their Show My Homework site more regularly.

Please sign the tear-off slip below to acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Class Teacher

Tear here and return

Parent/carer's receipt:

I have received your note about the failure to complete homework and will ensure that, in future, it is completed and returned to the class teacher on time.

Parent/carer's signature _____ Date _____

Students name _____ Tutor Group _____