



HOMEWORK POLICY

September 2023-2024

Passmores Academy

Part of Passmores Co-operative Learning Community

Introduction

This is Passmores Academy's policy for the provision of homework to students and has been drawn up in accordance with guidance from the DFE and Sutton Education Trust.

It must be recognised that parents play a vital role in the education of their child, therefore it is important and valuable to have a good home-school partnership. One way in which parents can support this is by being aware of homework expectations at Passmores.

Homework - A definition

Homework is defined as any work or activity that students are asked to undertake outside of lesson time, either on their own or with the aid of parents and carers. Homework doesn't necessarily have to be completed at home. We have several after-school homework clubs which aim to support students with homework. We see work completed outside of lesson time as a valuable part of a student's learning.

The purpose of homework

Passmores regards the purpose of homework as being to:

- Provide learners with the opportunity to work on an activity that is relevant to learning outcomes, or that contributes to gaining qualifications/accreditations.
- Develop an effective partnership between the school, parents and carers in pursuing the development of their child in order to meet academic aims of all students.
- Consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding prior to the following lesson.
- Extend learning across the curriculum, for example through additional reading.
- Encourage students to develop the confidence, self-discipline, and independence to cultivate organisational skills.
- Encourage students take ownership of their own learning, thereby instilling a work ethic that is driven by a determination to succeed.

As a school, we encourage students to pursue out-of-school activities. Homework should be used to effectively reinforce and/or extend what is learned in school. We hope that students will feel a sense of personal satisfaction in a task completed well and that their efforts will be recognised and praised both at home and at school. Homework tasks should be undertaken to the best of their ability. We hope that parents and carers will be willing and able to give their active support to ensure that work completed at home is done so conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

At the beginning of the academic year, each year group will be informed about what is expected of them with regards to homework via their subject teachers. This will also be communicated at Parents Information Evenings (PIE) early in the academic year.

Homework Tasks

Students may be expected to undertake a variety of homework activities. These activities will differ depending on the teacher and subject. Examples include: reading tasks, numeracy tests, spelling tests, quizzes, project work, classwork extensions, coursework, essays and research activities. As a general rule, teachers will not usually set substantial homework tasks to be completed for the next day, but in some subjects where the homework or previous day's learning is to be revisited and built upon, homework for the next day may be necessary.

In years 7 8 and 9, students may be asked to choose challenge tasks – Acquiring, Developing, Securing or Mastering. Students will be expected to complete a task that really stretches their thinking and therefore enables them to take ownership of their learning. There will be an expected minimum threshold for students, with anyone able to challenge themselves to try harder tasks, something we call 'goal getting.'

Time to be spent completing homework

Homework will in general be set weekly, however, due to the nature of the timetable, some subjects may only set work fortnightly. There may be some extended tasks over a period of weeks in some subjects (for example Art). Students will be spending an **equivalent** amount of time on homework below.

Year 7

- **30 minutes** per subject each fortnight. Core subjects will set twice a fortnight.
- SAM Learning online platform– Up to 30-minutes' worth of tasks are set weekly.
- Bedrock vocabulary builder – one 30-minute lesson per week.
- Reading – at least 4 x 15 minutes per week. Quizzes to be completed in Accelerated Reader.

Year 8

- **45 minutes** per subject each fortnight. Core subjects will set twice a fortnight.
- SAM Learning online platform– Up to 30-minutes' worth of tasks are set weekly.
- Bedrock vocabulary builder – one 30-minute lesson per week.
- Reading – at least 4 x 15 minutes per week. Quizzes to be completed in Accelerated Reader.

Year 9

- **45 minutes** per subject each fortnight. Core subjects will set twice a fortnight.
- SAM Learning online platform– Up to 30-minutes' worth of tasks are set weekly.
- Bedrock vocabulary builder – one 30-minute lesson per week.
- Reading – at least 4 x 15 minutes per week.

Year 10

- **2 x 45 minutes** per subject each fortnight.
- Bedrock vocabulary builder – one 30-minute lesson per week.
- Students should read from a variety of sources - fiction and non-fiction - to support their subjects, interests and ambitions.

Year 11

- **2 x 45 minutes** per subject each fortnight.
- Personal revision – **see also below.**
- Students should read from a variety of sources - fiction and non-fiction - to support their subjects, interests and ambitions.

Year 11 revision guidance:

Revision helps work the long- and short-term memory. Going over previously known material will strengthen the brain's connections with that material; going through any missed work will obviously be better than not doing so. By getting material into the long-term memory, the short-term memory is freed up to act as an extra store. Revision is also helpful for checking how each exam paper works and which techniques work best for each question. Practice breeds confidence.

Outside of exam working times, students in Year 11 should revise for at least an hour each week, splitting this into frequent shorter sessions. **3x20 minutes is optimal for retention.** Mix up the subjects and topics, remembering to revisit things at a later point.

In exam preparation windows, revision should be at least five hours per calendar week, with 7 ½ being even better. This will usually take the form of revision tasks set on Satchel One, but will often also be self-guided.

If a student in any year completes homework in less time than is detailed above, they are actively encouraged to use the remaining time to work independently across any of their subjects using the online websites linked to Passmores, such as Duolingo, Dr Frost, Seneca etc, or explore their academic interests as prompted by our super-curriculum display boards in school.

There will be times during the year when more homework may be set (for example in the run up to exams). Students will be given structured revision across subjects at these times.

Communication of Homework

All homework will be set via SATCHEL ONE (previously known as “Show My Homework” (SMHW)) by all staff for all subjects. This is a web-based application which can also be downloaded as an app on mobile and tablet devices. The web address is www.showmyhomework.co.uk. Students will all be able to login to see the tasks. Parents/carers will also be able to login to SMHW once students have been given access so that they can see what tasks are set by staff.

Student feedback

Passmores recognises the importance of providing prompt and actionable feedback. Feedback on homework may include how well homework tasks have been tackled, and the knowledge, skills and understanding developed with advice on how to improve where necessary. A variety of methods will be used to provide feedback, such as an appropriate comment of praise, appreciation, or area for improvement, and in some cases re-drafting or editing work. Forms of feedback will be appropriate to the specific subject.

Where to access Passmores’ Homework Policy

Passmores will use newsletters to inform parents and carers about the school’s homework policy. The homework policy, as well as useful information for parents in supporting their child’s learning, is displayed on the school website. Parents’ Evenings and Parent’s Information Evenings may be used to promote this partnership and obtain feedback. Homework questionnaires will be used where appropriate to ascertain parent views. Parents will be consulted about any significant changes to the policy before changes are made.

Reviewing the policy

The Homework Policy will be reviewed every year. Where significant changes to the policy are required, proposals will be presented to the Local Governing Body and parents consulted.

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Local Governing Body on **26th September 2022**.