



HOMework POLICY

September 2020-2021

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 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 a number of after-school homework clubs which aim to support students with homework. However, at the current time following the Covid-19 pandemic, these may be limited. 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 the 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 and/or form tutors. This will also be communicated at Parents Information Evenings (PIE) early in the academic year, where applicable.

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 year 7 and 8, students may be asked to choose challenge tasks – Bronze, Silver, Gold or Platinum. 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, but anyone can 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.

KS3 - Years 7 and 8

- 30-45 minutes per subject, per week
- SAM Learning – 30 minutes' worth of tasks are set weekly across a variety of subjects
- Reading – 5 x 20 minutes per week and detailed in their Reading Log

KS4 - Years 9

- 45 minutes - 1 hour per subject, per week
- Reading – no formal reading log is required but all students should be encouraged to maintain reading from a variety of sources.

KS4 – Years 10 and 11

- 1 – 1 ½ hours per subject, per week
- Independent work online – students are encouraged to do more than above using Tassomai, Hegarty Maths, PiXL and others.
- Reading – no formal reading log is required but all students should be encouraged to maintain reading from a variety of sources.

If a student 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.

There will be times during the year when more homework may be set (for example in the run up to exams). Students may be given structured revision across the vast majority of subjects and this will be communicated via a revision app. During this revision time, normal homework tasks may be suspended to focus on exam preparation.

Communication of Homework

All homework will be set via "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 SMHW in order to see the tasks and they will be issued with usernames and passwords linked to their Microsoft Office school email accounts. Students may wish to record homework in diaries too but this is not a requirement. 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 attempting part of a piece of work. Any given feedback will vary across subjects. Feedback is not expected to be given to students via Show My Homework, although some staff may choose to do this.

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 approved by the Passmores Local Governing Body on 22nd September 2020.