



Homework Policy

Rationale

Our aim at Alder must be to create an environment in which learning is valued to such an extent that consolidation or extension of class work is seen as a natural and important part of learning. In providing homework, teachers would be supporting pupils' learning beyond the classroom – as opposed to imposing upon their leisure time - and, hopefully, parents would be encouraged to become active partners in this process.

So homework:

1. Must be relevant to the teacher's curricular objectives
2. Takes place out of formal classroom teaching
3. Is primarily the responsibility of the learner

The Purpose of Homework

- Allowing practice and consolidation of work done in class
- Allowing preparation for future class work
- Developing skills in using libraries and other learning resources
- Providing opportunities for independent work
- Allowing assessment of pupils' progress and mastery of work
- Developing good habits and self-discipline
- Encouraging ownership and responsibility for learning
- Providing information for parents
- Providing opportunities for parental co-operation and support
- Creating channels for home-school dialogue

Types of Homework

The nature and frequency of homework will vary according to both stage and subject. It is not appropriate, therefore, to adopt a 'one size fits all' approach.

Staff should:

- Provide varying types of homework set within a pupil's capabilities
- Provide homework tasks which parallel or feed into course work
- Ensure pupils are given adequate notice of homework tasks
- Support pupils who experience difficulty in completion of homework tasks to ensure a sense of achievement and to allow their self-esteem to grow.
- Be sensitive to the social environment in which each child lives
- Establish a routine, known to both pupils and parents, regarding setting, collecting and giving feedback on homework
- Ensure feedback is positive and specific
- Maintain records of homework set and individual pupil achievement
- Evaluate homework tasks regularly

Level 1 Homework

The completion of this home work is essential and will often take the form of catchup assessments, end of unit tests or the re-doing of important pieces of work related to GCSE. Failure to complete this homework will result in a sanction which will usually take the form of a detention.

Level 2 Homework

The completion of this homework is desirable as its main purpose is to deepen, broaden or extend a student's knowledge towards mastery in a particular subject area. It could take the form of extended projects, Independent Learning Tasks or revision topics. Failure to complete this homework will result in a text message/letter to parents.

Roles and Responsibilities

Senior Leaders

Senior Leaders must ensure that the development of homework programmes in departments is monitored and evaluated.

Senior Leaders must ensure, in co-operation with Progress and Pastoral Staff that a programme of Study Skills is developed:

- Within PSHE
- Across the curriculum
- Through stop the clock days

Senior Leaders will take responsibility for informing parents of the whole school homework policy in Alder CHS.

Curriculum Leaders

Curriculum Leaders should include within departmental handbooks, brief statements of departmental homework policy, based on whole school principals and practice.

Departments must plan, prepare and implement realistic and manageable programmes of homework, maintain accurate records of completion and non-completion of homework.

The Curriculum Leader must ensure that:

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

Teachers

Class Teachers should issue and monitor regularly, homework undertaken by pupils. Class teachers have responsibility of informing parents by text of missed homework and the Curriculum Leader of repeated missed homeworks.

Pupils

Pupils must take responsibility for the recording and completion of their homework within the appropriate timeline.

Pupils must take responsibility for the completion of their homework to the best of their ability.

Sanctions & Procedures

The school places great value on homework and it is important to emphasise to both parents and pupils that learning in any subject can be significantly enhanced by undertaking work out of school. The key to this process is a shared understanding of the benefits of the homework tasks themselves i.e. the activities to be done must have an obvious relevance to the individual pupil's learning. It is within this context that the non-completion of homework should be addressed.

From an idealistic standpoint, it could be argued that failure to do homework is its own punishment and completion is its own reward. However, at Alder we aim to create a positive homework climate where non-completion is recorded, communicated as appropriate and the subject of further action. The school's assessment and reporting system has a key role to play in this process.

Teachers will keep a record of pupils' homework

Green: Completed on time

Orange: Late (but handed in)

Red: Not done

It will be at the teachers' discretion whether they mark homework handed in late. Missed Level 1 homework will result in a one hour detention after school. Missed level 2 homework from a pupil will result in a text message to parents. This will be sent from the main office when requested by the class teacher. (See Appendix 1).

Repeated missed Level 1 homework (x3) will result in a letter to parents from the Curriculum Leader. (See Appendix 2) this will be sent from the main office at the request of the Curriculum Leader.

If parents/carers fail to respond to the school's warnings, then a referral should be made to the appropriate Progress Leader who will intervene. This will involve writing or phoning the home and requesting a parent meeting. The outcome of this intervention will be passed back to the Curriculum Leader and class teacher. If this fails to achieve the return of homework, then the annual interim and final pupil reports and letters of concern will be used to record failure to comply.

It is School Policy to discipline pupils for non-completion of Level 1 Homework.