

# Parents' guide to homework





### What is Homework?

Homework can be defined as, 'tasks assigned to students by school teachers that are meant to be carried out during non-school hours' (Cooper, 1989:67).

### Types of homework

Homework may be individualised or assigned to the whole class it may be given for students to **practise** their newly acquired learning and skills, **prepare** for lessons to gain a background to particular topics, or to **extend** a student to encourage them to conduct further research around a topic. (LaConte. 1981)

### What is the purpose of homework?

**Homework is designed to aid the learning of students' and meet a variety of purposes such as:**

1. Increase pupil achievement
2. Reinforce and strengthen topics taught in class
3. Complete unfinished work
4. Develop independent study skills
5. Develop self-discipline
6. Develop time-management skills
7. Involve parents in helping their children's learning
8. Allowing preparation for future lessons and topics
9. Develop pupils' research skills
10. Reviewing and practising topics taught in school
11. Extending the school day

## How can you help your child with their homework?



### **Communication with school**

Read the SJF 'Homework Policy' so you are aware of the school procedures surrounding homework.

Check the MCAS system and your child's planner for details of homework tasks and deadlines.

Use the planner or email teachers if you have any problems with homework or for more clarification with the task.

### **Study space at home**

Ensure your child has a quiet/private space to complete their homework.

Ensure your child is not surrounded by distractions particularly TV, game station, mobile phones.

Ensure that your child has the appropriate resources available to complete homework e.g. pens, pencils, calculator, dictionary

Music- some students might like to listen to music whilst completing homework. Research suggests that listening to music can aid concentration (Hallam and Cowan, 1999). Students should be allowed to listen to music if they feel comfortable doing so.

### **Time Management**

Set a night time routine with your child for an appropriate time to complete homework. (This might be straight after school or after dinner). This can help pupils develop their time management and organisational skills.

Try to help with time management and prioritising tasks.

If there is an evening where your child does not have homework then encourage them to read. For example they could read a book of their choice or a newspaper. An idea would be to find stories in the news that link to lesson topics.

Do keep track on the amount of time your child is spending on homework if they are spending hours on a piece of homework that should only take 30 minutes then please inform the teacher.



### Discussions and support

Show an interest in your child's homework – have discussions about the topics and how they went about completing it. This fosters a sense that homework is important and valued.

Have a conversation with your child to discuss how they would like you to support them. For example, they might want help testing them when preparing for an exam.

Discuss problem behaviours with your child e.g. putting off homework, rushing pieces etc. and work out solutions together. Allowing children to have input gives them a sense of control and ownership and will make the process more likely to succeed.

Offer support if your child asks for help but try to avoid completing homework for them. Supervise the process rather than monitor the homework.

Some children genuinely feel over whelmed by homework. This might be because they find it too difficult or because they don't know how to work on their own. Offer support in this situation and explain to your child that there is always help available if they get stuck.

Look for others to help. Homework can be a time consuming process. You may be able to ask others for support e.g. partners, grandparents and siblings.



### Motivational tips and rewards

Help to motivate your child to complete homework. This might be simply reminding them that they have something to look forward to when it's completed, or giving them breaks in between completing pieces and maybe offer a rewards for the completion of work and sticking to their homework schedule.

## Websites and resources for additional support

English	<p><a href="http://www.sparknotes.com/">http://www.sparknotes.com/</a> 'Mr Bruff' on YouTube <a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zr9d7ty">https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zr9d7ty</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zckw2hv">https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zckw2hv</a></p>
Maths	<p><a href="https://www.mymaths.co.uk/">https://www.mymaths.co.uk/</a> <a href="http://mathswatch.co.uk/">http://mathswatch.co.uk/</a></p>
Science	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zng4d2p">https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zng4d2p</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zrkw2hv">https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zrkw2hv</a> <a href="http://www.cyberphysics.co.uk/">http://www.cyberphysics.co.uk/</a> <a href="http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/">http://www.physicsandmathstutor.com/</a></p>
Geography	<p><a href="http://www.coolgeography.co.uk/">www.coolgeography.co.uk/</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science_and_environment">https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science and environment</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zy3ptyc">https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zy3ptyc</a> <a href="https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/geography">https://revisionworld.com/gcse-revision/geography</a> <a href="https://www.ted.com/talks">https://www.ted.com/talks</a> <a href="https://www.nationalgeographic.com/">https://www.nationalgeographic.com/</a></p>
Design Technology	<p><a href="http://www.technologystudent.com/">http://www.technologystudent.com/</a></p>
ICT	<p><a href="https://www.office.com/">https://www.office.com/</a> <a href="http://www.teach-ict.com/">http://www.teach-ict.com/</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/z34k7ty">https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/z34k7ty</a> <a href="https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zvc9q6f">https://www.bbc.com/education/subjects/zvc9q6f</a> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8H6-anK0t4&amp;list=PLCiOXwirraUAvkTPDWeeSqAKty3LAG37-">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t8H6-anK0t4&amp;list=PLCiOXwirraUAvkTPDWeeSqAKty3LAG37-</a></p>
Music	<p><a href="http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music">www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/music</a> - Our exam board at GCSE and A Level <a href="http://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zpf3cdm">www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zpf3cdm</a> - BBC Bitesize revision <a href="http://www.gb.abrsm.org">www.gb.abrsm.org</a> - ABRSM, The music theory and practical exam board <a href="http://www.bbc.com/proms">www.bbc.com/proms</a> - The home of the BBC proms with recordings and videos of concerts <a href="http://www.choraleguide.com">www.choraleguide.com</a> - Useful help on 4 part harmony and Bach Chorales <a href="http://www.imslp.org">www.imslp.org</a> - Thousands of free scores for just about every composer <a href="http://www.soundonsound.com">www.soundonsound.com</a> - Highly informative site with information about music and music technology <a href="http://www.mymusiconline.co.uk">www.mymusiconline.co.uk</a> - Lots of information and audio quizzes</p>

Dance	<p><a href="http://www.rambert.org.uk">www.rambert.org.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk">www.phoenixdancetheatre.co.uk</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.onedanceuk.org">www.onedanceuk.org</a></p> <p><a href="https://arts-pool.co.uk/">https://arts-pool.co.uk/</a></p>
History	<p>KS3  <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39</a></p> <p>KS4  <a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zw4bv4j">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/examspecs/zw4bv4j</a></p>
French	<p><a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/</a>  Excellent website provided by the BBC, organized by skill (eg Reading or Listening) and then by topic</p> <p><a href="http://www.wildfrench.co.uk/GCSEpapers/paperslist.htm">http://www.wildfrench.co.uk/GCSEpapers/paperslist.htm</a>  Edexcel French GCSE Past Papers  (the topics are very similar to AQA)</p> <p><a href="http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum/modlang/">http://www.ashcombe.surrey.sch.uk/curriculum/modlang/</a>  A surrey secondary school's website with games and listening activities.  Try the interactive quizzes.</p> <p><a href="http://www.targetlanguage.co.uk/">http://www.targetlanguage.co.uk/</a>  French: GCSE practice with verbs, exam rubrics and topics, dictionary and information from the different exam boards is also available from the site.</p> <p><a href="http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/haberg/index.htm">http://atschool.eduweb.co.uk/haberg/index.htm</a>  French GCSE practice by topics: crosswords, multiple choices ...</p> <p><a href="http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/intermediate/year10.html">http://zut.languageskills.co.uk/intermediate/year10.html</a>  French GCSE revision practice available after 4pm for free</p> <p><a href="http://www.aiglon.ch/langlink/frenchrev.html">http://www.aiglon.ch/langlink/frenchrev.html</a>  French revision site for grammar and topics</p> <p><a href="http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/french/index.html">http://www.revisioncentre.co.uk/gcse/french/index.html</a>  French GCSE general revision site with revision advice</p> <p><a href="http://www.atantot-extra.co.uk/">http://www.atantot-extra.co.uk/</a>  Basic vocabulary builder including many games in French  Watch French TV</p> <p><a href="http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/">http://www.languagesonline.org.uk/</a>  French: grammar, topics and vocabulary practice</p>

Drama	<p><a href="https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zbckjxs">https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zbckjxs</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.oranim.ac.il/sites/heb/SiteCollectionImages/pictures/english/expression/Glossary_of_drama_Dramatic.pdf">http://www.oranim.ac.il/sites/heb/SiteCollectionImages/pictures/english/expression/Glossary_of_drama_Dramatic.pdf</a></p> <p><a href="https://www.youtube.com/user/ntdiscovertheatre">https://www.youtube.com/user/ntdiscovertheatre</a></p>
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