



Homework Policy

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1 Junior School

1.1 Aims

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to teachers, pupils, parents and governors about what is expected of Junior School pupils in terms of Learning at Home.

1.2 Learning at Home in the Junior School

At Habs Junior School, we want pupils to maintain a healthy balance between learning and school commitments, and being able to relax, have down time and enjoy being a child.

Research shows that learning at home that is linked to classroom work, and forms an integral part of learning, is most effective.

The aims of Learning at Home in the Junior School are:

- to establish excellent foundations in reading, spelling and arithmetic
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and concepts learnt at school
- to extend pupils' learning by developing their experience outside the classroom
- to encourage pupils to develop independence
- to encourage pupils to manage their time effectively and to learn to work to deadlines

Every pupil in the school receives a Learning at Home record, in which activities and tasks are recorded. Parents should support their child in completing the tasks set each week and ensure that their record is kept up to date.

Learning at Home is split into the three elements below:

- **Foundational Skills**

Aim: to establish excellent foundations in reading, spelling and arithmetic

- **Independent Learning Tasks**

Aims: To practise skills, apply understanding and enrich learning. To maintain focus independently and develop time management of learning at home.

- **Explore. Extend. Expand. Experience**

Aims: To give opportunity for wider self-led learning. To allow for cross curricular links to be developed. To increase engagement outside the classroom, encouraging scholarly learning.

Pupils work extremely hard during the term time and holidays are a time for rest and relaxation. We hope that all pupils will make the most of any opportunity that arises while on holiday to explore and extend their knowledge and understanding of the wider world. Pupils in the Junior School will not be given holiday homework except for the normal amount in the week preceding a holiday period.

The learning of words for concerts and performances will also be set from time to time – this is in addition to homework set.

2 Senior School

The aims of setting homework in the Senior School are: -

- To **enrich** the learning experience of the students
- To allow students to **apply** the knowledge that they have learnt
- To allow students to **practise** the skills that they are developing in lessons

This policy is reviewed regularly with consultation of both students and staff.

As an essential part of the learning process, homework is designed to continue the development of effective habits of learning and organisation. The amount of time to be spent on each subject is published on the homework timetable for students in Year 7 to 9. The students in the Years 10-13 have time allocations for each subject. In general, we recommend that homework for the Middle School be done on the night set to avoid a build-up of work.

Students in Years 7-9 are given a homework timetable, a copy of which is provided to their parents. In Years 10 and 11, students have 45 minutes of homework per subject per week (except English and Maths). Deadlines in all subjects, except English and Maths, should be no earlier than 48 hours after the homework is set. Students in Year 12 can generally expect up to three-four hours of homework per subject per week. In Year 13 students should become increasingly independent and would be expected to escalate the time they commit to independent study and practice as they get closer to exams. Homework is set as an assignment on Microsoft Teams, though the teacher may ask for it to be completed on paper or submitted online.

Reasonable adjustments will be made, as appropriate, for students with special educational needs or disabilities.

Students are encouraged to consult their tutor at the earliest opportunity if there are problems with homework. Parents are also encouraged to contact the tutor if their child is experiencing particular difficulties. Plagiarism is taken very seriously, and cases of plagiarism will result in sanctions being applied, depending on the level of severity. This is covered in our policies around academic integrity.

2.1 Homework Environment

Students are encouraged to work in a positive environment at home. Advice on both mental and physical preparation is covered in tutorials. We offer all students the opportunity to work in the Learning Resources Centre between 4.00pm and 5.15pm, if they wish, supervised by the librarian. Students with private study periods work in the LRC or the rooms designated for private study. These rooms and the library are supervised.

2.2 Holiday Homework

We recognise that students work extremely hard during term time and believe that holidays are mostly a time for some rest and relaxation. We hope that students will make the most of any opportunities that arise to extend and enhance their knowledge. Ideally students should return physically rested and intellectually stimulated.

Staff may not set any formal homework for the Middle School during holidays except for the normal Friday evening work (with the usual time allocation in mind). Other year groups may be set holiday work, especially in the lead up to important examinations.

The Heads of Year 10 and 11 and the Head of Sixth Form maintain an overview of the volume of work expected from their students. Heads of Department undertake regular audits of homework, with feedback from students passed to the whole staff.