

## Homework Policy

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Party responsible:	Student Committee
Linked policies:	Curriculum Policy

### Homework

Working independently is a fundamental life skill. Homework provides experiences of working independently, where students plan their own time and are self-reliant and self-disciplined. It also equips them for exam preparation, further and higher education and the world of work.

Our key elements of Homework are:

- Consolidation and assessment of learning – quizzes and recall activities work well for this
- Flipped learning – research tasks and activities completed before a lesson is taught
- Interleaving and fluency – returning to previously taught material to embed key knowledge and skills
- Habit forming – students learning to work independently, organising their own time and becoming self-reliant, key skills for exam revision and post-16 education.
- Consolidation of class-work (e.g. complete maths questions based on what was learnt in class)
- Preparation for future learning (e.g. researching a subject, watching TED Talks)
- Revision of skills and previously taught knowledge (e.g. including three linguistic devices in the opening paragraph of a letter)
- Independent project (e.g. create an app)

### 20/20/20 Approach for Core Subjects

We expect approximately an hour per week in each of the core subjects. Students are free to manage their own time completing the SPARX tasks set. However, we recommend a consistent approach over several evenings – 20 minutes of English, 20 minutes of Maths, and 20 minutes of Science, three nights a week. An alternative is 15 minutes per subject, over four nights.

- If students complete set tasks more quickly, they should tackle additional tasks to further consolidate their learning.

Subject requirements, and expected time spent on homework per week, increase as students progress through the school. See table below:

# HOMework



## CORE SUBJECTS

### SPARX FOR ENGLISH, SCIENCE & MATHS



- Tasks for approx 1 hour per week per subject set, with a week to complete. Completion due days as below.
- Completed quickly? Tackle additional tasks!



RECOMMENDATION: spread core subjects over multiple days, either:

- a **20/20/20** approach (20 mins per subject) over 3 nights, or
- a **15/15/15** approach (15 mins per subject) over 4 nights

## HOMework SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY SPARX READING <small>weekly completion deadline</small>	WEDNESDAY SPARX SCIENCE <small>weekly completion deadline</small>	THURSDAY SPARX MATHS <small>weekly completion deadline</small>	FRIDAY
YEAR 7 & 8	ENGLISH, SCIENCE & MATHS: SPARX approx 1 hour per subject per week In addition: FRENCH and occasional PBL (completion days vary)				
YEAR 9	ENGLISH, SCIENCE & MATHS: SPARX approx 1 hour per subject per week In addition: FRENCH, GEOGRAPHY, HISTORY, PRE (completion days vary)				
YEAR 10 & 11	ENGLISH, SCIENCE & MATHS: SPARX approx 1 hour per subject per week In addition: OPTION SUBJECTS (completion days vary) In addition: REVISION / PAST PAPERS / EXAM TECHNIQUE				

Many tasks will be short and designed to consolidate learning and embed key skills and knowledge. Everyone works at a different pace. We just ask that students do their best.

Homework tasks will be recorded on Arbor (and linked to resources and weblinks on Microsoft Teams).

Students and parents will be able to view the tasks set via their Arbor app.

Students will record homework in their planner.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved and should draw answers from their son/ daughter by using open questioning. If you both don't know – you can learn together! There are also many resources on the internet and over time we will build a bank of resources on our virtual learning environment.

## Rationale

Homework at The Swanage School is relevant, meaningful and integrated into the learning and progress of all students. These tasks are not an 'extra' but an integral part of the students' learning journey; we have pre-planned many tasks, across the key stages, in response to the knowledge and skill demands of the GCSEs.

The conscientious completion of homework on a regular basis throughout years 7–11 gradually builds up student confidence and competence in tackling examination/ course requirements and achieving individual potential.

## Purpose

- To provide a clear learning entitlement for all students that develops a thirst for learning.
- To enhance home-school partnership
- To build increasing student involvement in their own study programme beyond the classroom
- To develop research skills and an understanding of the appropriateness of a variety of sources
- To develop skills of time management and organisation
- To build and develop academic commitment
- To provide the opportunity to use, consolidate, and revise the skills and knowledge content of school work
- To develop the independent learner
- To develop student confidence, motivation and self-awareness

## Guidelines

- At the start of each school year, all parents receive a parent information pack which explains the nature and approach of home learning at The Swanage School
- Members of staff have the responsibility of implementing the school's homework policy and of emphasising to their students the important part homework play in their overall progress

- Staff will be expected to ensure that all students clearly understand the task set and the date/ time by which it is due for submission. Students will note the homework in their planner and are expected to check their Arbor platforms every day
- A wide variety of homework can be expected depending on the nature of the subject and the type of work and content being covered
- The amount of work set will vary according to the age and ability of the student and the nature of the subject
- In subjects which are predominantly practical in nature, and which often rely on specialist facilities and resources, activities will be set as appropriate to the project work/ assignments in which the student is involved
- The setting and completion of homework will be monitored regularly
- The school will provide space and facilities to enable students to do homework at the school where it is difficult to study at home

## Conclusion

Our homework reinforces the central principle of classroom learning in the progress of each student towards achieving their full potential, alongside the development of the independent learner. The work ethos and a passion for learning are at its core.

## Monitoring, evaluation and review

The effectiveness of the Homework Policy will be monitored, evaluated and reviewed both day to day and more strategically:

1. On-going monitoring:
  - Sampling students' planners
  - Monitoring work set on Arbor/ Teams
  - Sampling of students' work
  - Informal feedback from students
  - Discussions between members of staff
  - Informal feedback from parents
  - Student progress in lessons
2. Strategic monitoring and evaluation:
  - Audit of student homework to be carried out half termly
  - Analysis of student summative assessment data, termly
  - Written and oral feedback from students, annually
  - Review of The School and Departmental Development Plans, annually

The Governing Body will review the Homework Policy every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.