



Old Buckenham High School Homework Policy.

Homework is important because it:

- Allows further study which may not be possible in the classroom
- Offers opportunities to research or otherwise prepare for new learning,
- Offers opportunities to practise skills acquired in class,
- Enables students to consolidate or reflect on new knowledge,
- Maximises the efficient use of teacher time in lessons
- Establishes a work ethic,
- Fosters independent learning
- Allows pupils the autonomy they need to become lifelong learners
- Encourages a time management habit
- Fosters organisational skills
- Offers pupils further opportunities to succeed
- Reinforces messages about the value of their studies
- Promotes achievement and attainment
- Supports success in public examinations.

Homework which is formally set will be:

- Planned as an integrated part of the programme of study
- Relevant to the topic being studied in class
- Achievable within the time given
- Matched to the age, skills and abilities of the student
- Part of the strategy used to enable students to achieve their target grades
- Of a volume that is manageable
- Valued by the teacher (ie marked/monitored)
- Vary in type and frequency to reflect the nature of the subject which sets it.
- Overseen / monitored by Subject Leaders

In addition to the homework formally set by the class teacher there are further expectations for supporting and extending learning beyond School.

- Reading – we would hope every child reads a book for at least 20 minutes a day. Children who find learning difficult should spend this time sharing a book with an adult / older child.
- Exercise – It is a Government aspiration that all children take part in 5 hours of quality PE/Games. 2 of these hours take place in School time. We would hope every student engages for at least one hour a week in further exercise, whether as part of the School's extra-curricular programme or not.
- Instrument practice should be daily for all pupils with access to musical instruments.
- Broadening knowledge of music by listening to a range of genres
- Participation – making a positive contribution is part of the Every Child Matters agenda. We hope our students have opportunities to participate in sporting activities / School based or community music and drama activities
- Autonomous use of ICT – checking the School's extranet to access learning materials, visiting appropriate websites such as the online learning centre for schools
- Awareness of culture / history – this can be fostered by visiting historical sites, reading historical fiction, reading newspapers / watching the news
- Students who wish to engage with further learning but need more structure should engage with the "Reach for the Stars" programme where they can complete additional tasks set by subject areas.

Guidance for Parents on how to help

- Try to make sure your child has a quiet, well lit place where they are able to do homework,
- Try to establish a homework habit by encouraging a routine time for doing homework
- Show an interest in the content that is being learned
- Sign the homework diary and encourage your child to write the homework in it.
- Encourage your child to the kinds of activity listed above.
- Show that you value and are proud of their homework.
- Be available, for example to discuss reading or test learning (
- as a revision strategy)

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