

# Homework Policy



*This document will be reviewed regularly in light of emerging research and students' needs.*

*Last reviewed: September 2026*

### Intent

- A. At HRS, we know that research shows that timely and appropriate homework has a positive impact on academic outcomes at both primary and secondary levels. The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) findings show that homework can have an impact of +5 months of progress, if linked effectively to classroom instruction.
- B. In addition, it provides students with the opportunity to develop essential life skills such as time-management and self-discipline - essential skills for success beyond school.

## 1. Possible homework tasks

Our homework curriculum is intended to afford teachers the flexibility to select what and when certain independent tasks are most appropriate, so that homework is closely linked with classroom work.

The tasks may include:

- ★ Independent research
- ★ “Flipped learning” - preparation for material yet to be taught
- ★ Consolidation of classroom work
- ★ Rote vocabulary learning
- ★ Examination practice
- ★ Online adaptive platform tasks (such as Sparx or Educake)
- ★ Revision for assessments
- ★ Actioning feedback/rewriting assignments

## 2. Amount and frequency

| Subject                                                  | <b><u>Suggested</u></b> homework time per <b><u>fortnight</u></b> (minutes) |                 |                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
|                                                          | <b>Years 7 &amp; 8</b>                                                      | <b>Year 9</b>   | <b>Year 10 &amp; 11</b> |
| Core Subjects (English, Maths and Science)               | 60                                                                          | 80              | 120                     |
| Languages                                                | No more than 45                                                             | No more than 60 | Up to 90                |
| Other Non-Core Subjects                                  | No more than 30*                                                            | No more than 40 | Up to 90                |
| Average (estimated) time to be spent on homework per day | 32                                                                          | 42              | Up to 64**              |

\* This is only a suggestion as subjects with fewer teaching hours may not be set as frequently.

\*\* This does not include time for revision for mocks and exams.

### Reading

- Years 7 and 8 receive fortnightly SparxReader homework - this is set by their Literacy lesson teacher.
- In addition to the above, we would expect all pupils to carry out private reading for at least 20 minutes every day. This can include fiction, non-fiction, articles etc.
- For more information on why strong literacy skills are essential, please visit the National Literacy Trust's website <https://literacytrust.org.uk/>

### 6th Form: Years 12 & 13

A-Level students should plan for one hour of independent study for every hour they're taught in class. This will be in addition to the homework set by teachers.

## 3. Recording of and communication of homework

- Homework will be set on Arbor. Explicit details for the expectation of the homework including how long they have to complete the homework and a due date will be included on Arbor. KS5 - Independent study is an addition to homework and students should aim to complete an hour of independent work for each hour of lesson. Students are allocated 4 independent study sessions in the Sixth Form study area each week.
- Homework will be set with a reasonable deadline for completion - as a minimum this could be a 48 hour turnaround. This applies to KS3 and 4 only, KS5 may have shorter deadlines in light of the independent study guidelines.

#### 4. Expectations

| Teachers                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Students                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Parents                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Set relevant and purposeful homework.</li> <li>2. Communicate this clearly to students via Arbor.</li> <li>3. Set reasonable deadlines (at least 48 hours).</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete homework to the best of your ability.</li> <li>2. Meet the deadlines set by teachers.</li> <li>3. Ask class teachers for help <i>ahead of the deadline</i> if support is needed.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Help provide a quiet space for students to work.</li> <li>2. Check homework and support if necessary.</li> <li>3. Contact the class teacher in cases of uncertainty.</li> </ol> |

#### 5. Possible barriers to timely homework completion

- **Lack of technology** - The Learning Zone is open every day during break and lunch with a full suite of computers.
- **No Printer** - Students will not be expected to print any sheets.
- **Difficulty completing tasks** - the students will have deadlines of at least 48 hours in which to contact their teacher to ask for support. The students could also utilise the Homework Club where 6th formers can assist.
- **No quiet space to work** - use the Learning Zone at lunchtime to complete homework tasks
- **SEND / learning needs** - Class teachers are trained to adapt their strategies for students with varying needs. Students are encouraged to speak to their class teachers to negotiate reasonable adjustments.
- **Takes more time than expected** - if you notice a student taking longer than the expected time on the homework, ensure you stop them and sign the work with a note for the teacher explaining they have spent the suggested time and were unable to complete the task.

#### 6. Incompleted homework

In order to maintain fairness across the school and ensure all students are achieving their academic potential, it may be necessary to issue sanctions to students in the event that homework is not submitted. In the first instance, teachers will use their professional judgement to issue extensions or exemptions if there are extenuating circumstances.

| Instance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Consequence                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | "No homework" notification on Arbor                                                 |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | "No homework detention" notification on Arbor and 20 minute detention               |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | "No homework detention" notification on Arbor and 60 minute after school detention. |
| Each instance will be logged on Arbor to notify parents. For persistent incompletion of homework, the class teacher will refer this to the Head of Department/Faculty and if further improvement is not demonstrated then it will be referred to the student's Head of Year and the Pastoral Team who will escalate the sanctions in accordance with the school's behaviour policy. |                                                                                     |

*It must be noted that professional discretion will be used at all times to ensure the sanctions are proportionate and reasonable to the individual child. The class teacher will monitor how many instances of missed homework have occurred.*

#### 7. Artificial Intelligence (AI)

- AI can be a helpful tool for students to explore ideas and research, but it should never be used as a substitute for completing the homework. Teachers will monitor the use of AI and students might be asked to redo the homework if AI has been deemed to have completed the homework for the student.