



# **HOMEWORK POLICY**

**UPDATED OCTOBER 2010**

## Consultation History

<b>Governors/staff/parents/students</b>	<b>Date</b>
Executive (Leadership Group)	Nov 2010
Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff	Nov 2010
Curriculum Committee	Nov 2010
Full Governing Body	Nov 2010
Next Review of Policy	



## The Ridgeway School & Sixth Form College

### Homework Policy November 2010

## Policy

Homework is an essential part of students' learning at The Ridgeway School. Research undertaken by national bodies, including Ofsted, has proved that homework contributes positively to students' success at all key stages.

## Purpose

The purpose of homework is:

- to encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own;
- to raise academic standards;
- to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school;
- to sustain the involvement of parents and carers in the management of students' learning and keep them informed about the work students are doing;
- to manage particular demands, such as preparation for GCSE controlled assessments.

## Procedures

### The Setting of Homework

- 1.1 All classroom teachers set homework regularly in accordance with their individual subject team's policy.
- 1.2 Students can expect to receive a minimum amount of homework though the quantity will vary according to subjects. Core subjects, for example, will set more as they have more curriculum time. The school adheres to government guidelines and works on the basis of the following timings:

Years 7 and 8	45 to 90 minutes per day
Year 9	1 to 2 hours per day
Years 10 and 11	1.5 to 2.5 hours per day

In Years 12 and 13 the amount of homework will depend on students' individual programmes but 15 hours a week would be the norm.

- 1.3 Homework is set on FROG, the school's Virtual Learning Environment, which is accessible by the internet. Teachers tell students that homework has been set on FROG so that they can make an additional record of set work in their planners as a backup should there be an access difficulty.
- 1.4 Homeworks take a variety of forms but all will have clear assessment outcomes and be firmly related to curriculum objectives. Homework tasks can include:
- specially prepared tasks that extend class work;
  - preparation for a coming lesson(s);
  - completion of work started in class
  - research;
  - an interim task related to a longer project;
  - drafting;
  - model making;
  - designing;
  - essay writing;
  - simple experiments.

Students are expected to read regularly as a means of broadening and extending their knowledge and understanding of subjects. Sixth formers, in particular, are expected to read around each of their subjects. Sixth formers should never be in a position where they have 'no homework'.

- 1.5 In addition to the homeworks set on a week by week basis – see subject team homework details on FROG - each team sets a termly Key Assessment Homework Task which is specifically intended to develop an aspect of a student's thinking or more broadly his or her creativity or ingenuity. A list of each team's Key Assessment Tasks is also published on FROG.
- 1.6 Students are given reasonable time frames in which to complete homeworks.

## **The Marking of Homework**

- 2.1 Homework is marked promptly and in accordance with the school's marking policy and students can expect comments on what they have done well and what they will need to do in future to achieve further learning objectives. In some subject areas such as English comments will be tied to national APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) assessment foci.
- 2.2 Key Assessment Homework Tasks are marked the same as in 1.1.
- 2.3 Students are rewarded with house points for successful homework outcomes in accordance with school policy. The criteria for the award of house points are clearly displayed in all classrooms.

## The Non-Completion of Homework

3.1 Staff follow the following procedure for the non-completion of homework:

First Missed Homework	H1	Teacher has conversation with student – records H1 in register	
Second missed/late homework	H2	Personal detention given at break or lunchtime. Teacher logs H2 on system. Mentor discusses with student	Teacher phones or emails parents/carers and records in register
Further failure to submit homework	H3	Faculty After School Detention given. Letter home arranged. Teacher logs H3 on system. Mentor places on report.	Teacher informs student that s/he has been placed in Faculty After School Detention
Failure to attend Faculty After School Detention or multiple failure to hand in homework	H4	Pastoral After School Detention given. Letter home arranged from KS Office	Student placed in isolation for period of time to be decided by Year and Faculty Leader

## Monitoring of Homework

- 4.1 The homework policy is available on the school website.
- 4.2 Parents are asked to check both FROG and homework planners, and to monitor the completion of their child's homework.
- 4.3 Mentors check and sign homework planners on a weekly basis and follow up on the issue of any H1s, H2s, H3s and H4s.
- 4.4 Subject Team Leaders are responsible for monitoring the nature, quality and assessment of homework within their team.
- 4.5 Key Stage teams carry out audits of individual student's homework at regular intervals.
- 4.6 Representative interviews with students from across the age and ability range will aim to confirm the quality, frequency and assessment of homework.

- 4.7 The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will make homework part of the annual Team Leaders' Review. In addition to this, SLT can check on homework provision by means of shadowing a single student from a particular band or student group as a focus. This process is also known as a student pursuit.

## **The Role of Parents and Carers**

- 5.1 Parents and carers should liaise with their child's mentor in the first instance if there are any issues surrounding the issue and assessment of homework.
- 5.2 Parents and carers are asked to make clear to students that they value homework, and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress in school and in life.
- 5.3 Parents and carers are asked to encourage their child and praise her/him when s/he has completed homework.
- 5.4 Parents are asked to encourage their child to meet deadlines and to check that they are met.