

THE RIDGEWAY SCHOOL
Homework Policy

Consultation History

Governors / Staff	Date
Executive (Leadership Group)	
Teaching Staff	
Curriculum Committee	
Full Governing Body	
Next Review of Policy	

Policy

Homework is an essential part of pupils' learning at The Ridgeway School. It helps raise standards and achievement, extends coverage of the curriculum and allows more effective use to be made of lesson time. It enhances pupils' development of thinking skills and their ability to become independent learners.

Linked Policies

Assessment and Value-Added Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy, Curriculum Policy, ECM Policy, Pupil Behaviour Policy and the Special Educational Needs Policy.

Procedures

A. The Setting of Homework

1. All classroom teachers set homework regularly according to the policy of the individual subject team with emphasis being placed on key assessment tasks
2. Pupils may expect to receive a minimum weekly amount of homework though the quantity will vary according to the nature of the subject (core subjects will give more homework as they have more curriculum time) topics being covered and whether or not it is a key assessment task. The following is an approximate guide to the time pupils should be spending on homework each week

Key Stage 3	per week (approximately)
Year 7	5 hours
Year 8	7 hours
Year 9	7 hours

Key Stage 4	per week (approximately)
Years 10 and 11	10 hours

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Sixth form	per week (approximately)
Years 12 and 13	15 hours

3. Teachers may set homework after each lesson, or, with a larger project, state interim stages and deadlines for its completion over several homework sessions.
4. Classroom teachers ensure that pupils in their teaching groups enter their homework in their homework planners.
5. Homework may take a variety of forms. This variety will include:
 - a. specially prepared homework tasks that extend classwork;
 - b. tasks that prepare a pupil for a coming lesson;
 - c. structured research assignments;
 - d. practical exercises;
 - e. longer term assignments/projects with interim assessments including coursework and independent learning activities
 - f. completion of work started in class.
6. Every homework should have or lead to clear assessment outcomes, i.e. homeworks such as "Think about ..." are avoided and should be linked to specific learning objectives

B. The Marking of Homework

1. Homework is marked promptly by the teacher concerned.
2. Key Assessment tasks are marked either according to a 4-point scale or the examination criteria of the pupils' examination course.
3. Key Assessment tasks are commented on including an explanation of strengths, errors and guidelines/targets given for improvement. Comments should also acknowledge the effort made by pupils
4. Marking may involve self and peer assessment allowing for reflection and promoting the skills of being an independent learner
5. Rewards in the form of house points are given for successful homeworks according to the policy of the individual subject team.

C. The Non-Completion of Homework

1. Pupils who do not complete their homework on time are subject to the following sanctions at the discretion of the individual teacher and the policy of the relevant curriculum team:
 - a. detention by an individual teacher
 - b. team detention
 - c. monitoring by team leader
 - d. letter to parents from team leader

2. Pupils who do not complete homework assignments are referred to mentors using the school referral system. Pupils who are regularly not completing homework in several curriculum areas are monitored by mentors, and Learning Co-ordinators and Assistant Learning Co-ordinators are informed.

D. Monitoring of Homework

1. A summary of the Homework Policy is included in the School Prospectus and on the school website

2. A summary of the Homework Policy is sent in the July mailing to all parents.

3. Parents are asked to sign the pupils' homework planners each week, and to monitor the completion of pupils' homework.

4. Mentors monitor the use of homework planners on a regular basis, normally each week, and sign them.

5. Team leaders are responsible for monitoring the nature, quality and assessment of homework within their team.

6. Key Stage teams carry out audits of individual pupils' homework at regular intervals.

7. The headteacher, members of the SLT and Learning Co-ordinators interview Year 7-13 pupils each year, and monitor the quality of homework, its setting and completion.

8. Homework may be a focus for discussion in Team Leaders' Annual Reviews/SEF.