

# HOMework POLICY



## SCHOOL ETHOS

At The Grey Coat Hospital homework supports the main Christian ethos of the school by encouraging students to take charge of their learning and to become independent, confident and reflective learners.

## PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

Homework is an integral part of schooling as it gives pupils the opportunity to develop and extend themselves beyond the scope of the class room, independently of the teacher. It is important that a positive attitude to learning at home is encouraged; as such the strategic link between home and school, in terms of the partnership with parents, plays a vital role.

## STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Having consulted with pupils, parents and teachers regarding homework practices at Grey Coat, this revised version of the homework policy reflects the recommendations and requests made by these three stakeholders. The new policy will be reviewed during the course of the year and the school will encourage student voice, parental feedback and staff discussion to make further effective changes and to monitor impact.

## TIME MANAGEMENT

In order to manage expectations and time, pupils will be given a homework timetable at the start of the academic year detailing which subjects will set work and when. As pupils are encouraged to have a balanced lifestyle, by exploring interests, developing talents and participating in extra curricular activities, the homework timetable will be useful for time management.

In year 7, pupils will start out with one hour of homework per day which will increase to 1 ½ hours by year 9; in years 10 and 11 two hours of homework will be set daily. In the Sixth Form, it is advised that every single hour that students do in school they should match with an hour of study in their own time. Over a five year period regular homework would be equivalent to an extra year's education with consequent benefits.

## HOMework AIMS

- To develop the skills of effective study and independent learning.
- To consolidate and extend prior learning and to prepare for forthcoming lessons.
- To enable pupils to engage in and to enjoy challenging, thought-provoking work.
- To undertake focused research by reading, reflecting and referencing properly.
- To utilise the study skills visited in PSHCE lessons (as detailed below).
- To take ownership of personal progress through organising and presenting work that is in line with the student's ability and potential.
- To use a full range of learning resources including the library, internet and media.

## **STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To use the school diary to record the homework set clearly and accurately.
- To complete homework on time, giving due thought and attention.
- To have the self respect and integrity to produce one's own work, and to avoid at all costs replicating, copying, plagiarising the work of others.
- To play an active part and to do fair share of work in collaborative homework tasks.
- To follow up on meeting the targets set when homework was marked.
- To make every effort to attend homework club when referred or recommended.
- To see subject teacher sooner rather than later if there are any concerns or problems regarding homework.

## **TEACHERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To set homework that is educational rather than occupational by identifying clear learning objectives/outcomes.
- To adhere to the homework timetable by ensuring that homework is set on the allocated day, for the recommended amount of time.
- To celebrate excellent homework by displaying work at school or on web site.
- To give pupils the opportunity to do subject-related project work.
- To recognise and reward pupils' effort/achievement in homework by using various forms of praise: merits, email, postcards, calls, diary and certificates.
- To set realistic and reasonable deadlines and to check and collect homework at the soonest convenience, giving timely, clear feedback.
- To be consistent with setting, checking and marking within departments.
- To use assessment for learning when marking homework by commenting on pupil's work where applicable and setting targets for improvement.
- To consider differentiation by task or by outcome for G&T and SEN pupils.
- To use the findings and feedback from the standard of homework submitted to inform subsequent lesson planning.

## **PARENTS'/CARERS' RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To see that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.
- To make sure pupil is not spending insufficient nor excessive time on homework.
- To check and sign homework diary at least once a week.
- To provide a supportive environment and to promote home-based learning.
- To review homework grade in tracking and teacher comments relating to homework in subject reports.

## **DISCIPLINE & SANCTIONS**

The standards and expectations of pupils at The Grey Coat Hospital are high and discipline and sanctions are clear and consistent. Should a pupil fail to hand in homework, this will almost always result in a detention which will be communicated via the student diary. Failure to attend the detention will result in a double detention, communicated in the same manner, with sufficient notice. Subject teachers should inform form tutors also, using the discipline email system.

In order to monitor a disciplined approach to homework, there will be a separate category for homework within the student tracking report which will recognise those who produce good/excellent homework and also identify those who settle for substandard/unsatisfactory homework.

Persistent non-completion, late or poor homework will invariably lead to pupils going on homework report or subject report card, in the first instance. Parental intervention will also be crucial at this stage. Tutors and Heads of Year will also explore the reasons, obstacles and issues preventing the pupil from reaching her potential in this area and a pupil improvement plan will be compiled and agreed.

## **PRAISE & REWARDS**

At The Grey Coat Hospital, there is a positive learning ethos and a strong culture of praise. It is customary that exemplary pieces of class work and model homework assignments are recognised and rewarded. This is recognised in a variety of ways including: display boards, the blog, the school website, merits, praise emails, diary messages, postcards home, certificates, telephone calls. We trust that parents will join staff in encouraging and celebrating pupils' achievements and successes in their school and homework.

## **PROJECT WORK**

This year there will be a focus on setting project work as homework. Both pupils and teachers have highlighted the benefits, enjoyment and effectiveness of this approach. Teachers have mentioned how project work encourages more independent, open-ended, creative work; pupils have commented on the degree of freedom, interest and ownership that project work brings. We envisage subjects setting at least one piece of project work per term to be arranged departmentally.

## **PSHCE PROGRAMME**

We acknowledge that homework is not solely about the content, but also about the specific skills and tools for lifelong learning. As such, within the PSHCE programme, tutors will help to equip pupils with sound study skills. Modules will include: primary transition, time management, homework tips, note taking, researching, mind maps, planning, presentation, thinking skills, learning strategies/styles.