

# North Halifax Grammar School

## Homework Policy



This policy was considered and recommended to the Leadership Group for approval on:	28 June 2016
To be reviewed annually. Next review:	Summer Term 2017
Owner:	Vice Principal (i/c Teaching and Learning)

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework is important for a variety of reasons, which all contribute to achieving the school's aims, including:

- encouraging students to develop the self-discipline, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own;
- improving their resourcefulness, responsibility, resilience and reflection;
- developing their capacity for lifelong learning and adaptability;
- consolidating and reinforcing knowledge, skills and understanding developed at school;
- extending school learning, for example through research and additional reading;
- extending effective learning time;
- providing feedback to the student and teacher of the student's knowledge, skills and understanding;
- preparing for future work;
- allowing teachers to concentrate in lessons on using school based resources;
- enabling differentiated tasks to be set which match the abilities of students;
- sustaining the involvement of parents and carers in the management of students' learning;
- keeping parents and carers informed about the work students are doing;
- undertaking work which cannot be completed in school;
- using resources which may not be available in school;
- encouraging closer liaison and co-operation between the home and the school.

Homework presents opportunities for students to develop and consolidate their competence as independent learners. This is achieved through the use of the Student Planners, Monitoring, support through study skills in the PSCHEE programme and target setting. The effectiveness of homework, in this process, depends essentially on quality. Teachers at NHGS are required to set high quality homework which:

- has clear curricular objectives;
- encourages independence, research, creativity and initiative;
- demands high standards of accuracy and presentation;
- may exploit resources available outside the school;
- may promote the involvement of parents and other adults outside school.

Homework activities will involve a range of tasks and activities and may include: drafting, writing, reading, evaluating, learning, analysing, applying, revising, researching secondary sources, investigations, recording practical classwork, fieldwork, problem-solving exercises, collecting data, drawing, modelling, collecting materials, making artifacts, practising, composing, drawing, sketching, preparing a talk, coursework, interviews, simple experiments, essay writing, public library visit, report writing, projects.

The use of ICT is encouraged, but parents and students should not be disadvantaged if access at home is non-existent or limited. Computers can be accessed at school in the ICT room and in the LRC at lunchtimes and after school.

The time required for the homework will depend on the particular task. Extended tasks such as projects may need a number of homework sessions over several weeks. Deadlines will be made clear and work will be monitored over the period. When homework is set, it will be in accordance with the published schedule for each year group. The intrinsic value of homework activities is far more important than the precise amount of time devoted to them. Broad expectations about how much time it is reasonable for students to spend are established by the Government which act as a framework for schools and as a guide for parents and students. The school publishes its own expectations for the length of time to be

spent on homework in the student handbooks which are revised and published annually.

The Head of Section co-ordinates and publishes the homework timetable for each year group in the first week of term which students can then record in their Planner. Students should find the Student Planner a very helpful aid to study. Students must record details of homework set in the Planner; this enables the Student Progress Tutors, Pastoral Staff and parents to check that the work given has been completed. Homework timetables are also published on the school's website.

Parents and carers are asked to support their child by monitoring the student planner regularly and by communicating with school in case of difficulty, contacting the subject teacher or Student Progress Tutor in the first instance via a note in the planner. Help will be given if staff know it is necessary.

The quality of homework is monitored by Heads of Department, Pastoral Leaders and the Leadership Group through work scrutiny, during lesson observations and through student voice activities. The biennial Kirkland Rowell surveys of Students', Parents' and Staff views also collect the views of stakeholders over time. Governors monitor homework through receiving reports from the relevant middle and senior leaders.

Further information and guidance is available in the Lower and Upper School Handbooks and homework timetables are published on the website.