

Park Community School

HOMEWORK POLICY

Principles

We expect to develop all of our students as confident independent learners, who demonstrate autonomy, but also resilience when solving problems for themselves. Students who think for themselves and are willing to work hard will develop the attributes they require to be successful lifelong learners.

Homework is a significant way through which we increase students' understanding, mastery of content and skills, and raise standards.

The expectations of new exam syllabuses, and a move to terminal examinations in all subjects over the next three years, means that students must be supported to consolidate, review and revise learning outside of lessons in order to fully master the knowledge and skills they require. Homework is a vital part of this.

Homework is used to:

- set a clear expectation that students must work independently to truly master a given body of knowledge or skills set
- consolidate learning from the classroom through further independent application, practice or revision
- prepare students for new learning through independent research and inquiry
- allow students to develop their learning in different or creative ways
- encourage students to explore an area in greater depth and develop a thirst for learning

Homework Setting

- All subjects set homework for all year groups every week (Character Building is the only exception to this, where homework is set fortnightly)
- In Years 7 and 8, students also receive three-week **Venture Learning** projects designed to offer choice, promote independence and the chance to explore ideas creatively
- Homework is recorded and monitored on MILK
- Students can also record their homework in their Learning Handbooks
- Homework activities should take between 30 minutes to 1 hour, however in Key Stage 4, there will be times when students will be expected to spend longer periods of time developing extended pieces of work or creating revision resources
- The homework timetable for all years is available on the school website and shared with students in lessons, mentoring and assemblies. It is also recorded in Learning Handbooks

Homework Tasks:

- must be clearly linked and relevant to learning
- should be explained in class
- may focus on the use of revision techniques to secure understanding and reach mastery. These must be explicitly taught to students.
- should always be recorded on MILK

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Teachers will:

- set homework weekly
- set clear and realistic deadlines
- ensure the quality of homework is sufficiently challenging and clearly linked to learning
- ensure students are able to access support if it is required
- provide prompt feedback for students demonstrating that homework is valued (within 1 week at the most). Homework may be shared in class, used as the basis for further work or marked.
- record and monitor all homework on MILK

Students will:

- record homework in Learning handbooks
- access MILK regularly at home or in school to check homework assignments
- meet homework deadlines
- access available support if needed

Parents should:

- encourage students to value their homework and work hard
- ensure students have a quiet space where they can work (this can be in school if this is not available at home)
- access MILK to view homework assignments

Support and information

- Students are welcome to stay in school on any day to use facilities to complete homework. Our site is open from 7.30am- 10.00pm most days.
- Study clubs and homework support clubs are available in all subjects
- Year 7-8 homework club is run by Communitas every day for one hour after school
- MILK provides an electronic version of homework which can be accessed from home

Monitoring

- The setting of homework is monitored by Heads of Department and also through MILK
- Mentors are able to monitor homework through 1 to 1 mentoring sessions with students and checking of learning handbooks
- Homework forms one aspect of all assessment reports which are completed by teachers 5 times per year.
- Heads of Year monitor scores for homework and attitude to learning at each assessment point

Approved by:	PCS Governors 14 September 2016
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