



New Horizon Community School

Homework Policy

2018/19

Updated: January 2019

Date of next Review: November 2019

At New Horizon Community School, we work hard to get the best from our students. Our homework policy aims to build on this by developing independent learning skills, consolidating and reinforcing skills and knowledge acquired in school.

What form will homework take?

We encourage 'flipped homework'; that is students will be asked to research/find facts on a topic prior to the lesson being taught so they come to the lesson with some background knowledge – this enables the teacher to teach a greater understanding of the topic and the student in lessons has more time to apply that knowledge to a learning task and embed the learning with a higher student engagement.

Other examples include:

1. Exam questions from past papers
2. Revision of facts
3. Preparation of verbal presentation to class
4. Drafting an essay
5. Learning vocabulary/key words
6. Consolidation tasks
7. Subject specific tasks such as drawing/designing

How is homework recorded in school?

1. Students record homework in their planner
2. Parents are asked to check this weekly, if not daily.
3. Sanctions for non-compliance

Teacher comment to be recorded in planner. Departmental detention(s) will be given to complete work. When deadlines are set the principle should be adhered to.

Minimum Standard KS3

1. Set homework once every 3 lessons where appropriate.(English once a week)
2. All homework acknowledged.
3. Teacher checks that homework is recorded in the planner.

Minimum Standard KS4

1. Homework set once every 2 lessons. (English once a week)
2. Set tasks to be relevant to GCSE requirements
3. Teacher checks that homework is recorded in the planner.
4. All homework acknowledged

Teacher checks that homework is recorded in planner

The role of Leadership and Management of Homework

a. It is the role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to: It is the role of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to:

- Support the development and implementation of homework across the School through their link departments
- Monitor the setting, marking and effectiveness of homework in their link departments
- Set the procedure to be followed by all staff for students not completing homework

b. It is the role of the Head of to ensure that:

- Active in discussions on the role of homework across the school
- Lesson plans and schemes of work include homework and learning outcomes
- The promotion, setting and completion of homework is included in the regular cycle (half termly basis) of monitoring of teaching and learning and departmental self-review. This should be reported to the member of SLT responsible for Homework
- Teachers are provided with and have access to suitable homework materials and tasks

The role of School Administration

The roles and responsibilities of the school administration in relation to homework include:

- Foster lifelong learning and connecting families with kindergarten educators, teachers, and learning support educators, and students and assist in maintaining teacher/parent (guardian) partnership on homework
- Ensure homework policy is enacted in line with the needs of the students and the spirit of the policy
- Provide a copy of the homework policy to guardians/parents and informing them of the ensuing homework expectations
- Recommend that parents/guardians of students in years 7-11 explain the homework policy to the children to ensure clear understanding of expectations
- Offer support to teachers in terms of implementation of the homework guidelines
- Provide periodic review of school homework guidelines
- Support co-curricular activities for students in line with their assigned homework
- Identify opportunities for students to receive homework support at school including homework clubs, tutoring sessions, and after school hours
- Provide parent/guardian-homework workshops to help them learn strategies and techniques that will assist students with their homework

- Assist with school-home communications in the case of extended absences from schools to ensure appropriate homework is assigned

The role of Teachers

- The roles and responsibilities of teachers in relation to homework include:
 - Equip students with the skills to engage in real-life problem solving, creativity, critical thinking, and meaningful homework
 - Include different, challenging, and meaningful activities in the homework to ensure the inclusion of students with differing abilities, including play activities
 - Offer practical and meaningful feedback as well as in-depth assessment of homework along with needed support
 - Assist students to develop organizational and time-management skills by assigning particular kinds of homework
 - Engage the parents of younger learners in students' homework activities as active partners
 - Develop strategies to effectively communicate the expectations of the teacher regarding the purpose of homework assignments to students
 - Review and assess homework assignments and return them in a timely manner
 - Identify the objectives of the homework and communicate the short-term and long-term goals of homework to both parents and students; ensure parents know how to communicate with teachers or school administrators about potential homework problems
 - Periodically discuss with students and their parents/guardians the student's academic progress, including performance on homework assignments
 - Develop individual practices that are consistent with the goals of the curriculum for students that exhibit difficulty in completing class-assigned homework
 - Develop criteria or rubric based on which the homework is to be evaluated and communicate a make-up strategy for students who submitted incomplete homework
 - Allow for in-class study groups in order to address difficulties students face in relation to homework

The role of the Tutor to

- Encourage students to see homework as an extension of their learning
- Use weekly/fortnightly homework data to identify students for whom homework is an issue feeding back to Head as appropriate
- .Help students plan time effectively so that homework is completed on time and to a high standard

- Alert Head to a persistent lack of submitted homework
- Liaise with parents/carers

Homework provision for the More Able Learner

The more able learner's needs will more effectively be met when the child is:

1. Encouraged to undertake personal research
2. Given opportunities to follow personal interest pathways
3. Given access to resources in school and the wider community
4. Given opportunity to work alongside similar ability pupils
5. Given an element of control over nature of homework activity
6. Given opportunity to present findings to peers
7. Allocated extra time to enable in-depth study
8. Supported through teacher direction/guidance toward next steps
9. Rewarded/praised for independent study

The role of Learning Support Educators

The role of the LSE is to support the work already initiated by teachers. For example, encourage learners and parents to understand the various kinds and possibilities of homework assist in in-class study groups re: homework and support the roles carried out by teachers, and support strategies adopted by teachers re: homework.

The role of Students

The roles and responsibilities of students in relation to homework include:

- Follow-up on the feedback provided by the teacher on their homework
- Seek clarification from the teacher if a particular assignment is not clear
- Record their homework due dates and other important information in a notebook or planner
- Take increasing responsibility, especially if they are absent from class and find out about the work they missed in class
- Participate in homework groups if they are available in the school

The role of Parents/Carers

The roles and responsibilities of the family in relation to homework include:

- Develop a positive and productive approach to homework

- Read the homework alongside students in early years to ensure clear understanding, and when applicable involve the students in learning opportunities during every day activities at home
- Develop a close relationship with teachers to be able to identify concerns regarding the students' homework, and when needed, discuss teachers' feedback on homework
 - Participate in workshops provided by the school to learn strategies and techniques that can be of help in dealing with students' homework
- Offer feedback to teachers regarding both the quality and quantity of homework
- Assist students to strike a balance between homework, family time, and recreational activities
 - Offer assistance to children whose first language is different from the language of teaching by discussing the homework in the student's first language
- Take on a supervisory role and provide partial assistance to students instead of doing the assignment for them
- Provide a suitable place for the students to complete their homework; for younger learners it might be helpful to assign a particular time to the homework
 - Parents and guardians are encouraged to assist their children, even when homework is not provided, by reading to/with them, and get their children involved in activities such as sports, crafts and cultural activities
- Participate in homework groups if they are available in the school.

Homework facilities in NHCS

- a) The Library is available at break time and lunchtime to sign books on.
- b) Computing facilities are available at home time until 16:00
- c) Homework Club - details will be published early every Autumn Term.