

High Tunstall College of Science



Inspire | Support | Achieve

Homework Policy

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|---------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Revised | - | October 2022 |
| Stakeholder Consulted | - | Assessment and Curriculum Committee |
| Review Date | - | October 2024 |
| Responsibility for Review | - | Assistant Headteacher - Curriculum |

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Statement of intent

High Tunstall College of Science is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward thinking and safe learning environment in which students are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling education.

We believe that homework plays an important part in education and the benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved.

We are also aware that students have opportunities and experiences outside of college that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will give careful consideration to ensuring homework is well-balanced across the college.

This homework policy has been produced to provide a coherent framework from which all faculties can develop a consistent and effective approach for students of all ages and levels of ability.

Aims

This policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the college
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and students are aware of their responsibilities with regards to homework.
- Ensure that parents understand what is expected of their child.
- Encourage students to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Embed knowledge and support students' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning, and to keep them informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Give students further practise and a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the college day.

1. Legal framework

1.1. This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Ways to reduce workload in your school(s)'
- Ofsted (2019) 'School inspection handbook'
- Ofsted (2019) 'School inspection handbook – section 8'

1.2. This policy operates in conjunction with the following college policies:

- Curriculum Policy
- Behavioural Policy

2. Responsibilities

2.1. The headteacher and governing body are responsible for:

- Frequently checking the policy's compliance with statutory and good practice requirements.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing the policy every two year and making appropriate updates as required.
- Discussing with staff the extent to which this policy is being implemented.
- Meeting with parents as appropriate.
- Providing parents with information about homework.
- Informing new parents about the Homework Policy.

2.2. Heads of faculty are responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff within their faculty are aware of the college's Homework Policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy within their faculty and reporting their findings back to their line manager and curriculum lead.
- Answering any queries that teaching staff have regarding this policy and the college's practices.

2.3. Teachers are responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for students.

- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all students understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to students' abilities via Synergy.
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure students are completing it via Synergy.
- Marking homework and giving feedback to students, including rewards points on Synergy appropriate to the college's rewards system.
- Communicating with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Being available to parents and students for a discussion about homework.
- Setting homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of students with disabilities are considered.

2.4. Parents are responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praising their child and celebrating achievements with regards to their homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operating with the college to find a solution.
- Keeping the college informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework and feedback from teachers.

2.5. Students are responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for their own learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Having a positive approach towards homework.
- Putting the same effort into homework as class work.
- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework and returning to college all books/stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

3. **[Updated]** Our approach to homework

3.1. **Homework should be set frequently, the information below sets out the college's minimum expectation:**

- KS3: The equivalent of one hour per week of homework should be set and completed for core subject areas and 30 minutes per week for non-core subject areas. Students accessing the Reading Lessons in Communications are expected to complete a minimum of 20 minutes of reading per day independently and outside of lesson time.
- KS4: The equivalent of one hour per week of homework should be set and completed for each subject area. Students will also be expected to complete revision activities on top of any homework set by their class teachers, in line with their revision timetables. Overall, we expect students to complete 11 hours of homework per week.
- For homework to be effective, the opportunities we provide have to be stimulating and challenging. All tasks set should offer students variety and choice, to allow for enjoyment and increased engagement.
- All homework is to be set using Synergy.

Suggested types of homework could be:

| Lower- order tasks | Mid-order tasks | Higher- order tasks |
|---------------------------|--|---|
| Memory based exercises | Researching e.g. history, local news, reviewing data | Designing something, creating a piece of art work |

| Lower- order tasks | Mid-order tasks | Higher- order tasks |
|--|---|---|
| Preparing ingredients for Food Technology lessons | Attending extra-curricular events/ activities | Creating an alternative representation of something |
| Finishing a piece of work which was not completed in class | Practice exercises- providing students with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, review or reinforce newly acquired skills | Writing an extended piece, based on set criteria |
| Watching a podcast on GCSEPod and making notes | Reading | Evaluation activities |
| Bringing something into college/ collecting data | Answering set questions, based on prior learning | Analysis activities |

- 3.2. If a teacher has a query, their Faculty Leader is available to offer guidance and support regarding the college's procedures.
- 3.3. Teachers explain the college's approach to homework to parents at parents' evenings throughout the year
- 3.4. Every year, each year group is informed of what is expected of them with regards to homework during their first assembly.
- 3.5. The college's website informs parents about the main topics and units of work being covered.
- 3.6. Students use planners to record their homework.
- 3.7. Students receive homework on a weekly basis which is to be returned according to the deadline set by their class teachers.
- 3.8. Homework is assessed alongside the rest of the curriculum work. Homework should be clearly marked as Homework in books and folders.
- 3.9. Parents are encouraged to discuss any errors with their child. If they have any queries, they should speak to see their child's teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework is also welcomed by the college.
- 3.10. Teachers may occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial.
- 3.11. **[Updated]** The table below shows expected homework. Tasks may be set in addition to the below activities.

| Year Group | Homework | Maximum time | Total/week |
|------------|---|--|--|
| 7 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Phonics (where applicable) • Subject specific tasks set | 20 minutes literacy based nightly 30 minutes each non-core and 60 minutes each core subject weekly | Maximum 9 hours per week |
| 8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Subject specific tasks | 20 minutes literacy based nightly 30 minutes each non-core and 60 minutes each core subject weekly | Maximum 9 hours per week |
| 9 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Subject specific tasks | 20 minutes literacy based nightly 30 minutes each non-core and 60 minutes each core subject weekly | Maximum 9 hours per week |
| 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Subject specific tasks • Century tasks for core subjects • Revision | 60 minutes per subject area weekly plus 30 minutes daily literacy exercise | Maximum 11 hours per week without additional revision. |
| 11 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading books each night • Subject specific tasks • Century tasks for core subjects • Revision | 60 minutes per subject area weekly plus 30 minutes daily literacy exercise | Maximum 11 hours per week without additional revision. |

4. Students who fail to complete homework

- 4.1. All students are expected to complete homework on time.
- 4.2. Teachers keep records of students completing homework which are regularly checked on Synergy by faculty leaders teaching staff.
- 4.3. If students fail to complete homework the sanctions are outlined below:

Student fails to hand in their homework and is given an extension, as agreed by the class teacher

• **N1 in class RST**

Student fails to meet extension deadline. Phone call home made and new submission deadline set.

• **N4 parental phone call -2 negative behaviour point**

Homework is completed and submitted as requested.

• **+2 points will be issued (learner development Appreciation-Homework Assignment completed)**

Homework is not submitted and a pattern over time is recorded on Synergy of repeated non completion of homeworks.

• **N5 -3 points will be issued parental meeting requested between FI, teacher and student to attempt to resolve the repeated behaviours.**

- 4.4. Students who refuse to complete homework will be disciplined in line with the Behavioural Policy.

5. Marking homework

- 5.1. Homework may be marked in a variety of ways, in accordance with the college's Curriculum Policy.
- 5.2. In general, homework is marked alongside class work and feedback and next steps are applied.
- 5.3. Occasionally, homework may be marked orally with the student or class.
- 5.4. Students will be rewarded achievement points for completion of homework and may be awarded negative points when they do not.

6. Students with SEND

- 6.1. A balanced approach to homework will be adopted for students with SEND, in consultation with the student's parents and the SENCO/provision lead.
- 6.2. The college recognises that students with SEND may require specific tasks to be set, as outlined in their individual education plans.
- 6.3. While students with SEND may benefit from differentiated tasks separate from the homework received by other students, it is important that they also complete as much standard homework as possible.

7. Equal Opportunities

- 7.1. The college is committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all students, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background.
- 7.2. All students have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

8. Monitoring and review

- 8.1. This policy is reviewed every two year by the Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum.
- 8.2. The scheduled review date for this policy is October 2024