

The Wordsley School Homework Policy 2024-25

Policy adopted by the Governing Body of The Wordsley School	
Date adopted by the Governing Body	16/10/2024
Signed by the Chair of Governors	N Cooper

Why do we set homework?

At The Wordsley School we believe that homework is incredibly important in helping to give pupils the subject specific knowledge and skills they need to be successful in their studies, both at school and in later life. Homework serves as a valuable tool to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom and provides pupils with an opportunity to apply what they have learned, helping to solidify their understanding of the material.

Homework encourages pupils to take responsibility for their education, manage their time effectively, and develop a sense of discipline in their academic pursuits. It also builds the habits of independent self-study that provide our pupils with the skills they need to be effective learners. We want to cultivate a strong work ethic, resilience and the ability to tackle complex tasks independently – skills that are crucial for success in any field, and build on our school values of resilience and curiosity.

What form will homework take?

At the Wordsley School, homework takes the form of tasks that will revisit previous knowledge. This is because educational research shows that if knowledge is not revisited over time it will be lost. The nature of homework tasks will be decided by the Curriculum Achievement Leader and/or classroom teacher, in relation to the subject, its curriculum journey and particular stage of learning.

The list below is not an exhaustive list of tasks that could be set for homework, but rather an indication of the type of tasks that are appropriate. There is an expectation that pupils would receive a wider variety of tasks over time.

- Structured short-answer questions to consolidate learning in lessons
- Guided research with appropriate support such as key websites or printed references
- Creative responses to learning e.g. scrap books, pamphlets
- Online homework tasks e.g. via Google Classroom, online quizzes, subject specific learning platforms
- Revision
- Rehearsal
- Vocabulary or key-facts learning
- Choice of tasks with varying levels of challenge

Homework often aligns with upcoming assessments, quizzes, or exams. Completing homework allows pupils to assess their own understanding and identify areas that may require further study or clarification before formal assessments. Regular revision homework will help to keep key subject knowledge and skills fresh in pupils' minds and prevent it from disappearing from their long-term memories. Feed forward or project work will allow our pupils to develop and embed independence and responsibility for their own studies and time-management. Literacy homework will improve pupils' understanding and confidence in using both Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary in their studies.

Regular practice is key to mastery. Homework allows pupils to practise skills and reinforce knowledge, leading to a deeper understanding of the subject matter. This repetition contributes to the long-term retention of information. It will also further pupils' 'Memory for Learning' as it consolidates and extends classwork. Homework assignments can be tailored to meet the individual needs of pupils. They provide an avenue for differentiated instruction, allowing teachers to address specific strengths and challenges unique to each learner.

What does the research tell us?

Educational research supports the importance of homework. For example, the Education Endowment Foundation has found that it benefits pupils' progress, having a positive impact on progress on average of +5 months, particularly with pupils in secondary schools.

Homework fits with how pupils learn. The human brain has limitless capacity to remember knowledge but it needs to be re-visited regularly or it is lost. This revisiting is called retrieval practice. By retrieving key knowledge, it remains fresh in the pupil's mind and allows future learning to take place, as it can be built upon.

When will homework be set?

For KS3 homework will be set once per fortnight. For KS4 homework will be set weekly. Pupils should be given ample time to complete homework. Overnight homework tasks should be avoided in order to allow pupils ample time to complete homework for all subjects.

How will homework be set?

Homework will be set by teachers on Class Charts.

This will outline:

The focus of the task.

The nature of the task.

The resources needed (these can be linked directly to the task).

The duration of a homework task will be at the discretion of the Curriculum Achievement Leader and/or classroom teacher. However, per subject each piece of homework will be no longer than 20 minutes for KS3 and 45 minutes for KS4.

How will homework be checked and assessed?

Homework will be checked, marked and outcomes fed back to pupils within lessons. Homework completion will be tracked on Class Charts - this enables the class teacher, pupil and parents/carers to track homework completion rate and set an extension for pupils who, due to individual circumstances, may not have completed

it. Understanding will be checked through quizzing/low-stakes testing in lessons to see what students know and where their misconceptions are. Teachers will then spend time planning and teaching lessons to correct these misconceptions. The ongoing process of revision will feed into mid-year and end of year assessments. These will provide an excellent opportunity to see how well students have remembered key knowledge and can apply key skills/methods.

When tasks are project based, departments will check weekly, the progress of the extended piece of work, allowing pupils sufficient time and support to succeed by their final deadline.

What are the expectations of homework?

If the quality of homework exceeds the expected standard, we take every step to recognise this and reward/praise pupils by awarding an achievement point on Class Charts for homework. This should be followed up by in class recognition. The awarding of a subject certificate should be given for sustained high quality homework.

If the quality of homework falls below an acceptable standard or if a pupil fails to complete it, all teaching staff will (unless having knowledge of mitigating circumstances) record this through a behaviour point for poor quality or missed homework on Class Charts. Following this the pupil will be provided with a time extension to complete the homework task. If a pupil does not complete or hand in the homework task by the extension deadline they will receive a department detention to complete the task.

Support with homework

We strive to strike a balance, ensuring that homework is meaningful and purposeful without becoming overwhelming. When pupils commence secondary school, they will often require support from home and school in managing the completion of homework tasks. Homework Club runs every day from 3:05 to 4:00. Pupils from all year groups are welcome to come along. This is a quiet space where pupils can access computers and receive guidance from staff.

Homework assignments provide an opportunity for parents and carers to stay involved in their child's education. Parents/carers will be able to see what homework their child is being set along with the submission date, via Class Charts. By reviewing and discussing homework together, parents and carers can gain an insight into their child's academic progress and provide additional support when needed.

We encourage our pupils to take up a wide variety of extra-curricular activities, many of which take place after school. This can sometimes lead to extra stress for pupils – it is important that parents and teachers encourage the pupil to seek support if they are finding it difficult to balance everything.

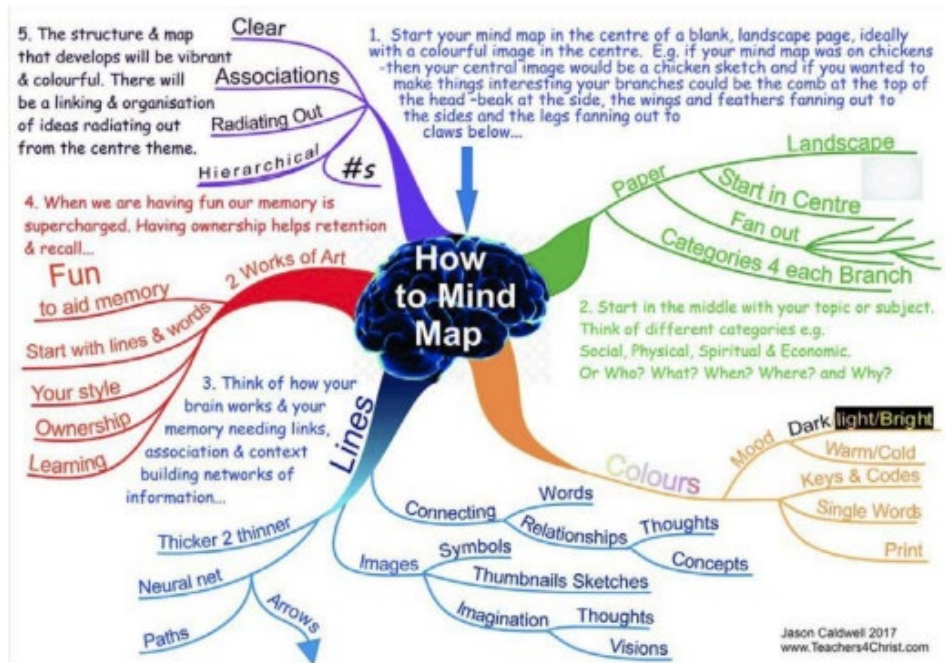
Reporting to parents/carers

Reports home will include a grade for homework as follows:

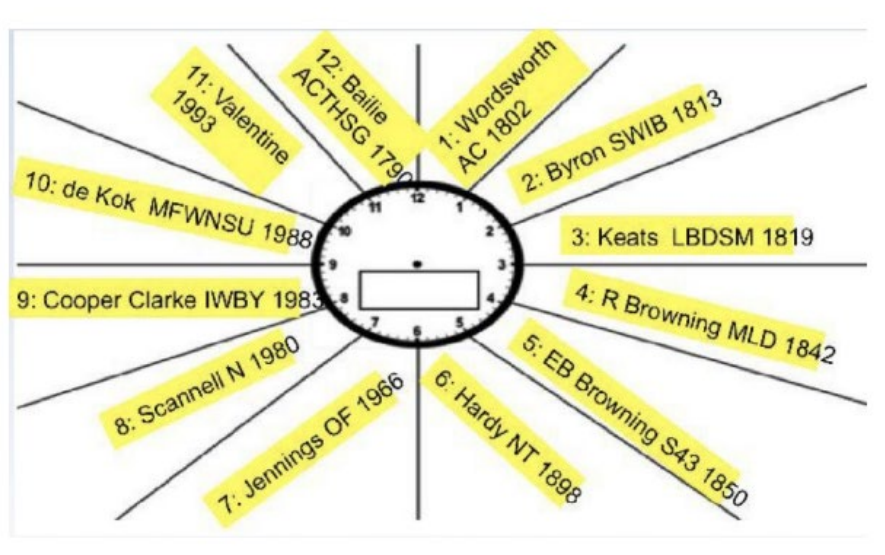
Grade	Description
1	<p>Highly motivated and resilient learner</p> <p>You always complete homework to a very high standard and ensure it is handed in on time.</p>
2	<p>Very engaged learner</p> <p>You always complete homework to a good standard and ensure it is handed in on time.</p>
3	<p>Positive learner</p> <p>You complete homework and ensure it is handed in on time.</p>
4	<p>Coasting learner</p> <p>Your homework is not up to the standard you are capable of and sometimes not handed in on time.</p>
5	<p>Disengaged learner</p> <p>You rarely do homework and/or do not hand it in on time.</p>
6	<p>Distracting learner</p> <p>You take little to no responsibility for your homework. You have never handed completed homework in even when given an extension.</p>

Appendix 1 – Types of Homework

Mind Maps (Revisit/Reduce) Mind mapping is simply a diagram used to visually represent or outline information. Mind maps help with memorisation of key knowledge as it helps to organise information and begin to make links and connections to different pieces of information.



Revision Clocks (Revisit/Reduce) Mind mapping is simply a diagram used to visually represent or outline information. Mind maps help with memorisation of key knowledge as it helps to organise information and begin to make links and connections to different pieces of information.



Revision Quizzes (Revisit and Recall) Produce and complete your own quizzes using a knowledge organiser. This is a great way to revise content and strengthen long-term memory.

Macbeth Quiz

1. Who is with Macbeth when he meets the witches for the first time?
2. Complete the quotation: "..... you imperfect speakers, tell me"
3. Why might Shakespeare have included witches in his play?
4. Complete the quotations: 'pall thee in the smoke of hell'
5. How does Duncan describe Macbeth at the opening of the play?
6. What does 'harmartia' mean?
7. What is Macbeth's harmartia?
8. Complete the quotation: "put this night's great into my"
9. Why do Duncan's sons - Malcolm and Donaldbain - flee after Duncan's murder?
10. What devilish creature does Macduff call Macbeth before killing him?
11. What is 'regicide'?
12. Complete the quotation: "all the of Arabia will not this little hand."

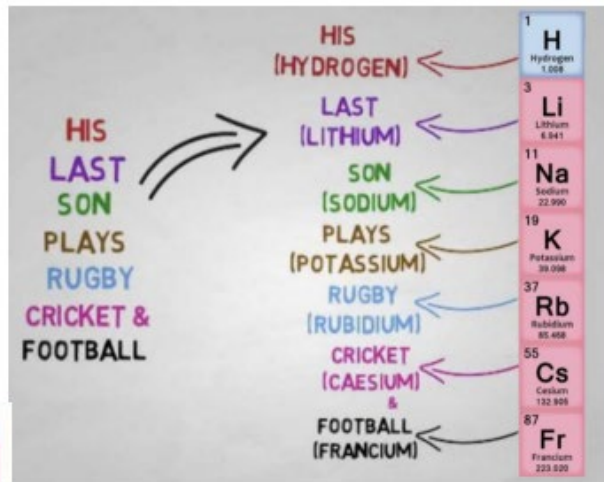
Look, Cover, Write, Check (Revisit and Recall) Spend a set amount of time reading/looking at the subject matter. Then write down everything you can remember. Finally, check it against the knowledge organiser to see how much was remembered.



Practice Methods/Skills (Rehearse) Practicing a method or skills is a great way of making it habitual. This could take many forms, including solving mathematical problems, doing practice questions, practicing a musical instrument or specific activity.

Mnemonics (Revisit/Reduce) Mnemonics are memory aids that can help you remember things, which are at times difficult to keep in mind. These words are basically one of the best learning techniques that can boost memory. There are different forms of mnemonics such as acronyms, rhymes, songs, phrases, and sentences as well. These techniques are particularly useful when it comes to retaining different facts, lists, and spellings.

spellings.



A.F.O.R.E.S.T

Devices

Alliteration



Facts



Opinion



Rhetorical Qs



Emotive Language



Rule of Three



Homework

‘Homework benefits pupils’ progress. Research has found that homework has a positive impact on average of +5 months for pupils in secondary school’. (EEF)



What we do	How we do it
Plan homework tasks which consolidate what’s been learnt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider the stage of learning pupils are at and design suitable homework tasks which will test retrieval and application of knowledge/skills. ● We ensure there is real ‘value’ to each homework task – we do not set homework for the sake of it.
Set appropriate and timely homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consider the type of homework task which will support pupils in their learning journey e.g. practice, consolidation, extending learning. ● Homework may look different for particular pupils based on their area of need – teachers should use their professional judgement and knowledge of the pupil.
Set homework on Class Charts as per the policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● KS3 homework is set once per fortnight for each subject. The duration should be 20 to 30 minutes. ● KS4 homework is set weekly for a duration of 45 minutes per subject. ● Homework should be set on Class Charts using the Homework tab (see separate document ‘Setting Homework - Help Sheet’ for instructions).
Acknowledge when homework has /hasn’t been completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Within Class Charts we record which pupils have submitted their homework/handed in late etc (see separate document ‘Setting Homework - Help Sheet’ for instructions). ● A message will go home to parents to say whether the homework has/hasn’t been submitted. ● Where a pupil hands in their homework late, remember to update Class Charts.
Praise great effort and follow up on re-occurring homework concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Where a pupil has completed an excellent piece of homework/given great effort, we reward with a positive achievement point in Class Charts via the ‘Submission’ tab. ● Consider sending a department postcard home for pupils who produce excellent work/show great effort. Phone calls home are also really powerful! ● If the quality of homework falls below the expected standard OR if a pupil fails to complete it (unless mitigating circumstances) record via the SUBMISSION tab and give pupils an extension. ● If following an extension, a pupil still fails to produce their homework, issue with a 15 minute Class Teacher detention (again via the Submission tab). ● Should concerns around homework persist, make contact with home and refer to your CAL as necessary.
Provide feedback on homework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss homework with pupils and feed back in the most appropriate way e.g. whole class feedback, scores on a self-marking quiz etc, so that pupils feel that homework is valued.
Encourage pupils who may struggle with homework to attend Homework Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Invite pupils to attend Homework Club – this runs every day until 4pm and takes place in T6.