The Wordsley School Homework Policy 2026 – 27

Policy adopted by the Governing Body of The Wordsley School	
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Signed by the Chair of Governors	**N Cooper**
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Why do we set homework?

At Wordsley, 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. It 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. It prepares pupils for the challenges they will face in higher education and in their future careers. 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.

Homework assignments provide an opportunity for parents and carers to stay involved in their child's education. By reviewing and discussing homework together, parents and carers can gain insight into their child's academic progress and provide additional support when needed.

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 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.

Homework assignments can be tailored to meet the individual needs of pupils. They provide an avenue for differentiated instruction, allowing us to address specific strengths and challenges unique to each learner.

At Wordsley we strive to strike a balance, ensuring that homework is meaningful and purposeful without becoming overwhelming.

What does the research tell us?

Research into what works in education supports the importance of homework. For example, the Education Endowment Foundation has found that it benefits pupils' progress. Their research has found that 'homework has a positive impact on average (+ 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. Through regular retrieval and revision, our pupils know and can do more. This will prepare them for internal assessments and external examinations, making them more academically successful.

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 homeworks will improve pupils' understanding and confidence in using both Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary in their studies.

What form will homework take?

At the Wordsley School, homework takes the form of retrieval 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 quizzes that will be planned and overseen by the Curriculum Achievement Leader and/or classroom teacher, in relation to the subject, its curriculum journey and particular stage of learning. This will then feedforward to allow teachers to ensure the learning is accessible to all pupils. For KS4 alternative tasks are acceptable due to nature and discipline of the subject at GCSE.

When will homework be set?

Homework will be set once per week as per the homework calendar (Appendix 1).

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 / links needed to complete 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 it will be no longer than 15 minutes for KS3 and 30 minutes for KS4.

How will homework be checked and assessed?

Homework will be checked, marked, outcomes fed back to pupils within lessons and used to inform the next stages of learning. Homework completion will be tracked on Class Charts - this enables the CAL, 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. Task feedback will be shared with pupils in the following lesson from the deadline. The feedback will allow teachers to adapt and intervene with pupils who have misconceptions to ensure there are no gaps in their knowledge, therefore allowing pupils to progress in line with their expected target.

What are the expectations of homework?

If the quality of homework exceeds the expected standard, we should take every step to recognise this and reward/praise pupils by awarding a positive Achievement Point on Class Charts for excellent homework. This should be followed up by in class recognition or a phone call home. Awarding a subject certificate for sustained high quality homework for further recognition.

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. If a pupil does not complete two homework tasks they will receive a department detention, called Curriculum Catch-up to complete the outstanding tasks. Contact will be made home by the class teacher to discuss the next steps for the pupil to ensure they are completing homework in the future. If this persists the CAL will contact home and discuss a departmental plan of action to support the pupil in achieving their potential through completion of their homework tasks.

Appendix 1

Wordsley Way Homework Calendar
26-27

KS3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Science	English	Maths	Humanities & Remaining Academic Subjects	
Sparx Reader Programme					

KS4	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Science	English	Maths	Options	
Sparx Reader Programme					