

2014

HOMEWORK



'Aim for the Highest'

POLICY DOCUMENT

Dalziel High School believes that a good, well-managed homework programme helps young people to develop the skills and attitudes they will need for successful lifelong learning.

Rationale

“Between the ages of 5 and 16 children spend only 15% of their lives in school, so supporting them at home really improves their chances of success. Parents and families are by far the most important influences on children’s lives.”

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/publications/2004/11/20237/46461>

Aims

- To further strengthen home/school links and promote parental involvement and support.
- To help raise the achievement and attainment of every pupil.
- To encourage pupils to develop personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

Benefits of Homework

Homework has a number of benefits for students:

- The strengthening and consolidation of learning from the classroom.
- The encouragement of young people to take increased responsibility for their own learning and study skills.
- The opportunity for creative and thoughtful responses to ideas covered in class.
- The opportunity for a dialogue between students and parents/carers.
- Learning how to manage time effectively and work to set deadlines.
- Preparing for future learning and assessment.

The role of the Principal Teacher is to ensure:

- Appropriate amounts of homework are identified and agreed for each year group,
- Homework is issued on a regular basis.
- Homework is differentiated to meet the needs and abilities of individual pupils and it should be challenging but achievable.
- The quality of pupils’ responses is graded on a regular basis and recorded in the Staff Shared Area or on Department Profile Sheets.
- All homework is monitored by department staff using a variety of methods:
 - individual correction
 - spot checks

- Homework is regularly discussed at departmental meetings to ensure uniformity of approach by staff.
- Homework jotters are monitored at points identified in the Monitoring Calendar to ensure an appropriate standard; this will be done by the Principal Teacher or by an appointed member of staff within the department.
- The departmental policy includes a clear statement requiring the Principal Teacher to be alerted if concerns arise over homework completion by a pupil e.g. three instances of unsatisfactory or non-completion.
- Failure to produce satisfactory homework is dealt with in accordance with the procedure set out in the Departmental Discipline Policy.
- Pupils are aware that they ALWAYS have homework; even if a specific task is not allocated; they are expected to review work done in class (reading over notes, answers) in preparation for the next lesson. This is the key to success!

The Role of the Teacher

- To communicate the expectations of the homework policy to learners in their classes,
- Teachers should check that homework is accurately recorded within homework diaries,
- Teachers should be as explicit as possible (e.g. when the work is due in, expected outcomes/model examples).
- To ensure that homework required for the next day is appropriate and achievable for the pupil to complete.
- To give appropriate feedback on homework tasks.
- To ensure achievement is promoted by the use of recognition and praise of good work.
- To ensure parents are engaged in their children's learning by means of appropriate communication (eg comment/evaluation sheets).
- To ensure information on pupils causing concern is passed to the appropriate member of the Pupil Support staff or Department Principal Teacher and, where necessary, to the appropriate DHT if urgent action is required.

The Role of the Pupil

- To fully understand the task set and ensure they are clear on submission dates/deadlines.
- To manage their time effectively so that homework tasks are handed in on time.
- To attempt homework prior to submission date so that help can be sought if required.
- To attempt homework to the best of his/her ability thereby promoting a sense of achievement and self-respect.
- To ask for help with problems but only after having made a reasonable attempt at the task in hand.
- To take responsibility for their own learning by forward planning and making full use of homework diaries thereby encouraging self-reliance and self-management.

- To take note of feedback given on homework tasks and act on this advice to obtain the maximum benefit from the homework set.

The Role of Parent/Carer

- To provide encouragement and support to children when they require it.
- To be actively involved in the homework of their child/children.
- To encourage children and praise them when homework is completed satisfactorily.
- To check that the quality and presentation is of an acceptable standard.
- To support children with homework but not to do it for them.
- To contact the school with any concerns at the earliest opportunity.
- To sign homework diary weekly and comment as appropriate.

The Amount of homework set

There is no longer Government guidance on the quantity of homework which should be set; however, Dalziel High School recognises the importance of ***all*** pupils receiving homework on a regular basis.

We are conscious of the fact that many children are involved in activities in the evening, which are valuable to their education, overall development and well-being. **The suggested allocations below should therefore act as a guide only**, to the amount of time spent on home learning activities throughout the week. At times the completion date for homework may be more than one week from the date set and the pupil will need to manage their time effectively.

S1 – maximum of 5 hours per week

S2 - approximately 6 hours per week

S3 – approximately 8 hours per week

S4 – S6 – approximately 2 hours per subject

As pupils undertake SQA certificate courses, such as Intermediates and Highers (or the new National 4 assessments and National 5 exams), they are required to make coursework submissions to the SQA for assessment purposes. Such assignments have very specific SQA deadlines, and Subject or Pupil Support Principal Teachers should contact parents directly by phone or letter if a pupil fails to submit such SQA coursework by the due date.