



## ST IVO SCHOOL

# Homework Policy

Approved: February 2017, Governors Curriculum Committee

Next review due: February 2019

### Aims

At St Ivo School we believe that homework forms an important part of students' learning, and that it is a significant factor in the academic success of the school. Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities
- Develop thinking, learning and research skills
- Become better independent learners
- Show progress and understanding, and reflect on the work done in the classroom
- Provide feedback to teachers, and inform planning and preparation of lessons
- Take ownership and responsibility for their own learning
- Engage parental co-operation and support

### Department Homework Policies

All staff work to a departmental homework policy, detailing:

- When homework will be set
- How much homework should be set
- Types of homework used
- Marking and feedback to students in good time
- Place and use of homework in the scheme of learning
- Use of merits and other rewards for excellent efforts and achievement
- Sanctions for unsatisfactory or late work
- How homework setting, marking and effectiveness are monitored by the subject teacher and head of department, and links with the year team tutors

### Homework Timetables

A homework timetable is published at the start of the academic year, so that students and parents know what homework to expect each day. For most students, homework will be set once or twice per week in most subject areas. Time required for each subject will start at about half an hour per task in Year 7, depending on the nature of the task, rising in time and demand as students move through the school.

Homework timetables are re-written in June/July of each year for the following academic year. Hard copies are published and made available on the school website.

### **Homework tasks**

Tasks are designed to inspire, stimulate and interest students and enhance their learning. Some tasks will be set over a number of days whilst others may take several weeks. They take a variety of forms and levels, depending on the age and development of the student, and the nature of the subject, and may include:

- Independent learning and extension work
- Consolidation of work in class/revision for tests, exams, etc
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of course assignments
- Research, exploration and investigation
- Interviews, or working with others
- Planning, preparation or rehearsal
- Drawing, recording or note-taking

### **Help with homework at school**

Teachers set the context for homework and give full and comprehensive instructions to students, checking that they understand the task to be completed.

The Resource Centre is open before school, at break and lunchtime, and until 5.30pm every day (5pm on Fridays). Students can carry out independent study and research. Centre staff supervise students and can assist them in finding information using the wide range of resources on hand. For key stage 3 & 4 students, there are reference copies of most of the recommended revision/study guides, and sixth form students can “book a librarian” if they require specialist help.

### **The role of students**

In order to best benefit from doing their homework, students must:

- Listen to homework instructions in class
- Check Go4Schools regularly for homework tasks that have been set
- Ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline
- Attempt all work and give their best
- Talk to the subject teacher and parents/carers if there are any issues or concerns

## **The role of parents/carer**

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement.

Parents can assist by:

- Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work
- Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time and other activities are important too
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks
- Ensuring that other activities do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school
- Checking Go4Schools homework tasks regularly
- Providing the school with information about any issues or concerns

## **Communication with parents**

St Ivo School will respond to correspondence from home and will work to resolve situations, including homework issues. If a number of homework tasks are missed or there are regular problems in receiving homework from a student, parents/carers will be contacted. We ask for parents/carers co-operation as we work together to ensure good progress of all students. Continued lack of or late homework with no good reason will trigger a department detention.

## **Monitoring of this policy:**

In addition to the monitoring by Heads of Department, this policy is monitored by the Senior Leadership Team. It is formally part of all Department Reviews and in addition is an agenda item on link meetings with heads of department.

Ongoing discussion between heads of department and senior links:

- Is homework being set according to the department policy
- Success and issues with the practicality of homework set
- Feedback to and from students in accordance with the marking policy
- Quality of work being set and being completed

Work scrutiny periods:

- Sample the books of students from each year group and teacher across the department
- Scrutinise the books for frequency and quality of homework set and done
- Highlight areas of strength and discuss areas for development

Department reviews:

- listen to student responses to what is expected of them, and how they feel homework is improving their learning
- check how well students are fulfilling their goals
- random sampling of student books