



Homework Policy

Approved: June 2017

Review: June 2018

Responsibility: SLT

The Role and Value of Homework

Homework is an integral part of the learning process at Ballakermeen High School. It encourages independent learning by enabling our students to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their progress.

Homework helps to develop important skills in each learner, as it requires effective time management, high levels of personal organisation, self-discipline and the development of a positive work ethic.

Homework also reinforces the partnership between the teachers, students and parents of Ballakermeen High School. Parents and carers are encouraged to take an active role in the process.

The Nature of Homework

Homework tasks, which are embedded in the scheme of work, are differentiated and appropriate for the age group and ability levels of students. They are designed to be meaningful and challenging. Tasks may be singular and discrete or form part of an on-going project over a period of weeks, such as coursework. Rarely should homework be dedicated to 'finishing off' tasks started in class.

Broadly speaking, there are three main types of homework:

- **Preparation:** tasks that require students to draft work; to take notes; to deepen and broaden their knowledge of the subject through research and background reading; or to prepare materials for the next lesson;
- **Extension:** tasks that require problem-solving, the handling of evidence investigation, evaluation or creativity;
- **Practice:** tasks that enable students to consolidate their knowledge, to practise subject-specific skills, to learn by rote or to revise.

Moreover, in certain subjects the equivalent time allocation for homework will be required for practical work or rehearsal in school.

When appropriate, homework also allows teachers to use e-learning activities to facilitate learning outside the classroom.



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Setting and recording

Homework can be set in any lesson of the school week. Sufficient time is given for its completion. The due date will not be the next day. Instructions, including deadlines, should be recorded in the student planner.

Scrutiny of the setting and recording of homework forms part of the ongoing evaluation of teaching and learning in the school, as conducted by Faculty / Subject leaders and the Senior Leadership Team.

Assessment

Homework forms an important part of the body of work used to assess the progress of each individual student. The assessment of homework is covered by the school's **Marking and Feedback Policy & Protocols**.

Additional support and guidance, above and beyond the usual feedback, will be provided or recommended, such as attendance at a revision session.

Non-compliance

In accordance with the school's **Behaviour Policy**, when a student's work is of an unacceptable quality or missing for no good reason, he / she will be required to complete the task in Faculty / Subject Detention.