

Aylesbury UTC

Homework Policy

October 2023

Responsible Officer:	Principal
Date:	October 2023
Review date:	August 2024
Available at:	Website
Authorised by:	Governing Board TBC

1. RATIONALE

Five hours of lessons, plus the learning attached to assemblies and other activities, makes for a long day at school.

Therefore we believe that:

- Homework without a clear learning outcome/purpose is in danger of taking up a students' free time unfairly
- Children need a childhood and the amount of homework set should be proportionate to their stage of schooling
- We hope and expect our students to engage in a wide range of extra-curricular activities within school life, and outside of school, and homework should not be a barrier to a happy, well-balanced, active childhood
- Students on courses leading to examinations can expect significantly more homework, as they develop the skills to study independently in preparation for the examinations themselves
- Research states that homework (if completed correctly) can add up to 5 months of progress (<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/education-evidence/teaching-learning-toolkit/homework>)
- Homework should be used to improve student recall helping the students remember more. "Good" homework develops the school curriculum and focuses on extending and improving the depth in students' learning.

2. AIMS

- To enrich students' classroom learning and to give teachers an additional means to assess the learning of their students
- To allow all students to develop their individual capabilities
- To develop the practice of independent study, time management, perseverance and self-discipline as well as a love of learning
- To provide opportunities for family learning involving parent/carers and other adults
- To deepen, extend or consolidate the learning from the classroom

3. EXPECTATIONS OF HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGE 4

Students will receive a maximum of 1 piece of homework every 4 lessons in each subject with a duration of 30-40mins for each piece

- Students on courses leading to external assessments have a greater need to utilise homework, with the intended benefits as outlined above.
- There will be more homework, as students prepare for examinations.
- Homework will be rewarded, using the rewards policy, as above
- Some departments will also set homework through Microsoft Teams giving clear and specific deadlines
- Where a specific piece of homework has not been set, students can choose to use SENECA Learning or another online learning platform instead

4. EXPECTATIONS OF HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGE 5

Homework will be sent at the discretion of the teacher

5. GUIDELINE AND SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

As teachers, we must ensure that homework is:

- Planned, meaningful, relevant, engaging and differentiated

- Enhancing classroom learning
- Given with appropriate time scales for completion
- Assessed (automated, teacher, group, peer or self) and this assessment is demonstrably responded to
- Rewarded
- Set via Microsoft Teams
- Clear and where specific pieces of homework are not set, teachers must make students aware of online learning platforms that can be accessed
- Set on the online learning platforms usage should be rewarded

6. BEST PRACTICE

- Homework is set near the beginning of the lesson so that it does not appear as a “bolt on activity” and so that students have plenty of time to write it down and ask any questions they may have
- Homework is directly linked to the learning in the lesson or recall of prior learning
- Homework assessed after completion and improvement feedback are responded to by the student
- Specific tasks are set via online learning platforms
- There are many other ways of assessing homework than teacher marking!

7. RESPONSIBILITIES / MONITORING AND EVALUATION:

7.1 Subject Teachers are responsible for:

- Setting homework in line with their subjects’ schemes of learning, and for recording the tasks on Microsoft Teams
- Setting tasks on online learning platforms such as SENECA learning
- Ensuring that completed homework is rewarded in line with school policy

7.2 Heads of Department are responsible for:

- Supporting and monitoring the teachers in their teams with all aspects of homework
- upholding a clear expectation as to when homework is set
- monitoring that all homework set is challenging, and has a positive impact

7.3 Parent/carers have a key role to play in supporting their child by:

- monitoring homework set on Microsoft Teams
- monitoring the schools’ recording of homework
- helping and encouraging their child to complete homework to the best of their ability and by the deadline
- liaising with tutors or subject teachers if a query arises to do with homework

7.4 Students are responsible for:

- carefully reviewing the work set for them on Microsoft Teams and asking their teachers for any further advice or clarification
- completing the homework to the best of their ability
- submitting the homework at the requested time or talking with their teachers if they need an extension

- reflecting and acting upon the feedback received from their subject teachers.

8. NON-COMPLETION OF HOMEWORK

Our ambition is to celebrate the completion of homework, with rewards

There may be times when homework is not completed and students are not available to offer a reason. Class teachers must use all their skill to work with the students to ensure that homework is completed and on time.