

Woodhouse Academy

Homework Policy

Reviewed: Autumn 2024

To be reviewed: Autumn 2026

This policy has been produced to provide a coherent framework from which all teachers can develop an effective approach for pupils of all ages and levels of ability.

Homework Purposes:

There are various reasons for the importance of setting homework, examples of which are:

- To provide meaningful learning opportunities that coincide with what pupils are learning in lessons
- To facilitate choice, allowing pupils to select opportunities which suit their skills and interests
- To foster independent learning skills
- To consolidate and review classroom learning to encourage deep learning
- To connect parents/careers with their child's education
- To further challenge and extend children
- To develop in pupils a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning
- To encourage important skills such as self-discipline, study habits, planning and organisation
- To consider the parameters of each child's home environment and extracurricular activities, including family and cultural obligations

Types of Homework:

Core skills

Pupils will be set weekly homework from their English and maths teachers designed to develop core skills that will help them achieve across the whole curriculum.

Enrichment

Each curriculum area will offer a 'menu' of activities classified as 'enrichment' instead of 'homework'. This is to emphasize our belief that any learning completed outside of lesson time is valuable, and opportunities to engage with this learning will arise at home, in school during clubs, and by spending time in the wider community.

Additional Home Learning

Each curriculum area also provides relevant and appropriate web links to educational resources (such as BBC Bitesize, the Oak Academy etc) which pupils can use at their leisure to consolidate and extend their curriculum learning

The Role of the Teacher:

- To carefully plan learning opportunities that achieve the purposes set out in this document. It should not be seen as an “add on” or dispensable extra
- To provide clear instructions
- To give verbal feedback in a timely manner
- To praise completion of homework tasks using school routines such as house points and, where engagement is exceptional, head teacher’s awards.
- To provide opportunities which consolidate or extend the learning within the classroom
- To provide accessible homework which can be completed independently using knowledge gained in the classroom
- To provide additional support to reduce barriers, such as homework club
- To inform parents/carers, subject leaders, form tutor or key stage lead, as appropriate, if problems arise
- To keep a record of student’s engagement with enrichment activities and encourage their participation, including inviting them to homework club if their participation is low

The Role of the Pupil:

- To take full responsibility for their homework and to be supported by their parents/carers and teachers
- To listen carefully to homework instructions in class
- To be responsible for completing homework to the best of their ability, and to meet deadlines for their core skills homework
- To be responsible for informing the teacher of any possible problems or difficulties which would impact their ability to hand in homework
- To organise their time to ensure workload is as evenly spread as possible
- To seek appropriate support to ensure they are able to engage positively with homework opportunities

The Role of Parents/Carers:

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

Parents/carers can assist by:

- Checking a child has completed their weekly English and maths homework
- Providing a table, chair and quiet place to work
- Encouraging a child to develop good study habits and helping them to be organised
- Talking to them about homework assignments and their learning

- Encouraging a child to actively engage with the enrichment opportunities and helping them make choices suited to their skills and interests
- Giving encouragement and praise
- Discussing with a child when homework is to be done, as a child's free time is important too
- Checking the presentation and content of work being returned to school
- Setting a good example by reading themselves and sharing reading together
- Not doing the work themselves, leaving ownership with the child
- Providing school with information about any problems

Incentives

For core skills homework, English and maths teachers may choose to reward students for their consistent completion of homework.

Any enrichment activities completed will achieve house points. 'Go for Gold' enrichment activities will achieve a higher number of house points to reflect the greater time and effort demanded by the tasks. Accumulation of house points will earn students incremental rewards.

Outstanding contribution to and engagement with homework opportunities, such as completing a high number of enrichment activities, or a wealth of additional home learning may be rewarded with a head teacher's award. Where appropriate, homework will be included in display work and sensitively praised in class.

Failure to complete Homework

Given that the core skills homework is designed to help develop essential skills that will benefit children across the curriculum, it is essential that these activities are completed. If a student does not hand in this homework, they will be given a second chance to comply. If they then fail to meet the second deadline, the teacher will keep the child during a break or lunchtime to complete the missing work, and record this on Arbor. If a child receives 5 missed homework incidents on Arbor, this will generate a red payback (and 2 negative behaviour points).

There is no deadline for enrichment activities, and students can complete as many as they like. However, if students are identified as failing to complete any of the opportunities, they will be invited to homework club where a teacher will support them to participate.