

# Hurworth School

## Homework and Study Support Policy

**Accepted by:** Governing Body – May 2010

**Senior Leadership Team Lead Reviewer:** Nichola Peaker

**Review Cycle:** 3 Years

**Date for Review:** May 2013

The need for study support:

“Effective teaching is not enough. Success for young people also relies (*along with good teaching*) on the homework and self directed learning that they do out of school hours, and classroom teaching flourishes when good teaching and self directed learning meet. We know that those who are going to do well in life are marked out by their self esteem, their motivation and their ability to take responsibility for their own learning.”

*Prof. John MacBeath*

### Why we set homework

- To develop independent learning skills
- To develop study skills
- To enhance in class learning
- To synthesise/consolidate what has been learnt
- To develop higher order thinking skills
- To provide opportunity for enhancement/extension
- To develop a love of learning leading into Lifelong Learning habits

It is the policy of Hurworth School that all students will be given homework.

The homework will be set as a meaningful extension or reinforcement of classwork and will normally be marked and returned to students as soon as possible (projects/assessments will take longer).

Students in Years 7 – 9 are issued with a homework timetable which is intended as guidance for both students and parents.

It is reasonable to expect that a student in Year 7 will be given 6-7 hours of homework per week to complete. This will be set English 1 hour, Mathematics 1 hour, Science 1 hour, Humanities 1 hour, Religious Education ½ hour, Modern Foreign Languages 1 hour, Design and Technology ½ hour and Art ½ hour. This amount will increase gradually. By KS4 this will average out at 2-3 hours per night.

It should be noted that certain subjects use a project approach to homework and so the above time guidelines are often concertinaed.

The Year leaders have an overview of this and liaise with the various curriculum areas and also with mentors when difficulties occur.

Homework given will be recorded and will be a part of each department's scheme of work. Each Head of Subject is responsible for monitoring the setting and marking of homework. It is the responsibility of the subject teacher to ensure that all students have recorded the homework in their planner and that they understand the task. Parents and the form tutor are asked to sign the planner weekly. Where this does not occur regularly, the Deputy Head will work with the tutor and the student to ensure school policy is adhered to.

At the beginning of each academic year Heads of department are asked to complete a timetable of departmental homework allocation. This used to produce Lower school timetables and also acts as a conduit for monitoring homework.

In order to support students learning the ICT facilities are available before school from 8.30 a.m., at lunchtime and after school until 4.00 p.m. An after-school homework club is available for use three afternoons a week: this is run by the SEN co-ordinator.

### **The nature of the homework**

Each homework may involve the following:

- reading/writing/spelling.
- watching a T.V. programme;
- carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project;
- observing/recording;
- making a model to exemplify an item of work. This often involves the whole family in the discussion, e.g. a musical instrument, circuit games, digestive system. Materials are either provided or involve the use of `household junk` items. The majority of pupils thoroughly enjoy this type of challenge and commit more than 1 hour to the task;
- completing an exercise to practice, enforce or apply aspects of the class work, e.g. writing up practical work.

### **How does the school help students to organize their homework?**

- Each pupil is given a homework diary at the beginning of the year. It is used to record each piece of homework that is set for each subject area, when it is due in and also a recommended timescale which it should take to complete. All pieces of homework have a minimum of 2 night's completion time and we often give up to a week to complete homework to allow flexibility.
- By setting homework at the beginning of lessons we try to make sure that our instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all pupils have plenty of time to copy down what is expected.
- We aim to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to pupils.

## **Failure to hand in homework**

We expect homework to be completed to the best of each child's ability and to be handed in on time. This gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not given in appropriate action is taken:

- The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work;
- The class teacher may contact the parents;
- A homework report may be issued;
- Pupils may be told to attend a lunch time study/test session to complete the work
- Failure to attend a subject area detention will lead to a School Detention.