



Homework Policy

Section 1: Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to provide the whole school community with the vision of how homework supports Teaching and Learning at Upper Shirley High to promote excellent achievement for all.

Our school is an educational community in which all members share a common commitment. We believe our school has an environment where all individuals are challenged to achieve; where we are distinguished as leaders of learning and the passion of our people transforms futures.

In our community, we learn how to think reflectively, critically and creatively to share and shape a meaningful curriculum. As a result, we will all feel truly connected to the learning experience; will be the best we can be; and be inspired to be a life-long learner.

It has been shown that effective homework will increase a student's achievement by a whole level or grade over their time in education. Using the principle of "little and often", homework at USH integrates traditional knowledge based homework with creative practical projects, research and afterschool enrichment opportunities. All homework aims to deepen students understanding of the learning in their lessons and explore concepts that are important to their subjects. All homework at USH is now set on 'google classroom'. This platform allows teachers to set assignments, updates, vocabulary lists, key dates etc. and have an open communication with both students and Parents to aid their learning experiences.

Section 2: Procedures and practice

Homework enables students to:

- Take responsibility for their learning through review and practice of what has been covered in class
- Improve their thinking and memory
- Develop positive study skills, learning habits and time management
- Learn how to use resources, such as libraries, reference materials, and computer websites to find information
- Explore subject knowledge more broadly than classroom time permits and to enrich learning by applying skills and knowledge to new situations

Roles and responsibilities:

Teachers will:

- *Ensure that homework is relevant, achievable and challenging to all student abilities*
- *Check that homework has been shared with the class during lesson time and that a suitable deadline has been set for its submission. All dates will be set on google classroom and therefore clearly communicated with students and parents.*
- *Mark homework in good time and ensure that they record feedback on google classroom.*
- *Ensure that they reply to student's individual requests for support with homework, via google classroom.*

Subject Leaders will:

- Ensure that homework set by their teams is relevant, achievable and challenging to students of all abilities
- Monitor that homework is being set and marked regularly; in line with the school's policy, by all members of their team

Students will:

- Take pride in the quality of their work and strive for accuracy wherever possible
- Grasp the opportunity to apply past knowledge to their work and be creative, imaginative and innovative in its presentation
- Ensure that they meet the deadlines set by their class teacher on google classroom
- Speak to their class teacher if they are having difficulties with any aspect of their homework, either in person, or via google classroom.
- Speak to their tutor if they are having any difficulties with accessing google classroom.
- Have the opportunity to attend homework club on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in room 21, from 2.40pm – 3.50pm.

Tutors will:

- Ensure they have a continued shared dialogue with their tutor group regarding homework
- Ensure all tutees are able to use google classroom competently and have access to this at home.

Parents are responsible for supporting their children with homework to:

- learn more about what their child is learning in school
- spark their child's enthusiasm with the learning and to broaden their understanding through the parents own knowledge of the subject
- communicate with the school any difficulties their child is having with the task

Parents can support their child by:

- Supplying the school with their email address to receive weekly updates on the assignments their child has been set, deadlines and whether work has been submitted.
- Assisting them with time management in terms of meeting deadlines, spending the guided time in completing the work and to persist with challenging work

- Providing a quiet space to complete homework
- Checking the presentation and content of your child's homework and helping them with spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Praising your child when deadlines are met and when work clearly shows pride

The amount of homework

The school has a main homework timetable which identifies the subject and a guide of how much time should be spent on the work. Please note that the timetable indicates the minimum amount of homework that will be set. In Year 7 homework is staggered so that only core subjects set homework in the first term, with foundation subjects added in the Spring Term. This allows for Year 7 pupils to settle into Secondary school life. Homework is set on a weekly basis in core subjects across all year groups. In Years 8 and 9, it is set fortnightly in Foundation subjects. In Years 10 and 11, homework is set weekly in all subjects.

Handing homework in:

Students will be rewarded for their independent study through:

- Celebration within the class by the teacher
- The school rewards system which could include rewards points, letters home, postcards, phone calls and announcements in the news letter
- Work put on display or on the working walls in classrooms

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The Local Governing Body will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of this policy alongside the Deputy Headteacher with shared oversight for Teaching and Learning. The quality of homework will be reported to the Governing Body once a term.

Section 3: Concluding notes

Other linked documents

- **Teaching and Learning policy**
- **Monitoring Evaluation and Review policy**
- **Teaching and Learning action plan as part of the Whole School Development Plan**