



Notre Dame Plymouth

Homework Policy

Homework is set in order to:

- Encourage students to develop the skills, confidence, motivation and self-discipline needed to study effectively as independent and life-long learners
- Consolidate, reinforce and extend what students know, understand and can do at school
- Extend school learning: not all learning takes place at school
- Involve parents and carers in students' learning and keep them informed about what students are doing at school
- Help students to get to grips with managing particular demands, such as GCSE coursework

At Notre Dame we celebrate the diversity of our curriculum and recognise that each subject area is unique and as such may require a different approach to homework. Each department therefore has guidance outlining expectations and requirements of homework.

Homework activities might include the following:

- Short or long answer questions or pieces of writing
- Project based learning
- Learning key vocabulary
- Developing coursework
- Making a model
- READING: an invaluable support to learning
- Report writing
- Research
- Revision
- Simple experiments
- Teaching a parent/ carer what has been studied at school

Y7 & 8 students are expected to complete 1 hour per week of homework for each core subject with 30 minutes per week for all other subjects

Y 9, 10 & 11 students should complete one hour per week of homework for each examination subject

Y 12 & 13 independent study sessions allow students to complete a minimum of 4 hours per week of learning additional to the lessons for each subject undertaken.

Teachers should follow these guidelines:

Research provides strong evidence that, when used appropriately, homework benefits student achievement. To make sure that homework is appropriate:

- Assign purposeful homework. Legitimate purposes for homework include introducing new content, practicing a skill or process that students can do independently but not fluently, elaborating on information that has been addressed in class to deepen students' knowledge, and providing opportunities for students to explore topics of their own interest.
- Design homework to maximise the chances that students will complete it. For example, ensure that homework is at the appropriate level of difficulty. Students should be able to complete homework



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assignments independently with relatively high success rates, but they should still find the assignments challenging enough to be interesting.

- Only involve parents in appropriate ways, for example, as a sounding board to help students summarise what they learned from the homework.
- Carefully monitor the amount of homework assigned so that it is appropriate to students' age levels and does not take too much time away from other home activities.
- When homework is not completed teachers should initially support the student to ensure the task set met the students needs, if this is so then sanctions should be used and recorded on SIMS in line with school policy.
- Repeat failure to complete homework should be referred to the Subject Lead who will issue a subject detention and inform home.
- Tutors should look to identify students who appear to have homework issues across several subject areas and intervene accordingly.
- Students should be rewarded for producing good homework. For example, constructive feedback may be given orally or in writing, house points may be awarded in line with school policy and faculties and departments are encouraged to contact home to inform parents/carers, e.g. via a note in the planner, a praise postcard or a phone call home.

How can Parents and Carers help?

- Sit down with your child, checking and signing their Planner and talking about the homework that has been set
- Support your child with extended project work by helping them to plan and manage their time
- Provide a quiet and suitable work space (e.g., a desk or table with a chair) for your child where they are not distracted by interruptions (and preferably away from watching the TV!)
- Keep younger children out of their way as they work
- Help your child establish a routine with homework setting aside time for it to be completed and ensuring that it is seen as a priority
- Support and praise your child's work, not just when it is completed, but as it is being done
- Give help if required without doing the homework for your child.
- Encourage your child to meet deadlines
- Encourage your child to attend the Homework Club and, for older pupils working towards GCSE, intervention classes on offer

If your child finds the homework too difficult, let her tutor know by writing a short note in the planner. Also let us know if too much or too little work is being set.

Students are expected to:

- Listen to homework instructions in class
- Copy down the instructions for the task, including the subject name into their planner along with the due in date.
- Do their best with each piece of work.



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- Ask for help if they find the homework too difficult, either from their teacher or from their parent or carer.
- Establish a routine with regard to homework, aiming to complete the homework if possible on the night that it has been set, then returning to it later and looking over the work with a fresh pair of eyes, checking upon quality and accuracy.
- Complete homework on time.

Please note, the maximum hours per fortnight are recommended for **Homework** hours

Year	Subject	Periods per fortnight	Maximum hours per fortnight
7 & 8	English	6	2
	Maths	7	2
	Science	6	2
	French/Spanish/ RS	5 each	1hr each
	History, Geography	4 each	1hr each
	Art, Drama, Music, Technology	2 each	1hr each
9, 10 & 11	English	8	2
	Maths	8	2
	Science	8	2
	RS	4	2
	Option A, B, C, D	4 each	2hrs each
12 & 13	Option A	9/8	8
	Option B	9/8	8
	Option C	9/8	8
	Option D	9/8	8

By order of the Governing Body of Notre Dame School

Policy first adopted by Governors Standards Committee: 14th September 2016

Review Term: 3 Yearly

Review Date: 14th September 2016..... Signed Chair of Standards

Review Date: 4th December 2019 Signed Chair of Governors

Next Review: November 2022