

The Lakes School Homework Policy September 2018 to June 2020

Approved by	
Name:	
Position:	
Signed:	
Date:	
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This policy statement has been produced following consultation with staff, parents and students. It is designed to provide a coherent framework from which subject areas can develop a consistent and effective approach to homework taking into consideration students of all ages and levels of ability. Unless exceptional circumstances apply, this policy applies to all teachers, subject areas and students at The Lakes School.

1. Rationale

The Lakes School believes that regular, appropriately pitched homework is an important and integral part of school life that contributes to the progress made by all students. In setting homework tasks, teachers will be mindful of the need for students to balance their studies with their commitments outside of school. The management and completion of homework feature in our whole school Attitude to Learning expectations in recognition of the role homework plays in supporting each student's academic progress and personal development.

The Lakes School believes that homework plays an important role in:

- 1.1 Extending and consolidating learning in the classroom and preparing for future learning.
- 1.2 Reinforcing positive attitudes to work.
- 1.3 Encouraging self-organisation and self-discipline.
- 1.4 Reinforcing, broadening and extending the school curriculum.
- 1.5 Developing home/school partnerships.
- 1.6 Helping students develop their independent learning skills.
- 1.7 Helping students to establish good study habits.

A key element of the school's homework policy is that homework will be set regularly so that students are able to establish a sensible routine in the knowledge that they will be required to complete homework tasks across a range of subjects each week of the school year. In setting appropriate and timely homework tasks, teachers have the flexibility to respond to the progress made by students in lessons and to set homework accordingly. The principles and expectations set out in this policy enable teachers to use their professional judgement to set regular and relevant homework and to work closely with students and parents in establishing high expectations of the work students complete.

2. Principles underlying our homework policy and practice

- 2.1 Homework will be carefully planned and set regularly so that students are able to establish a routine.
- 2.2 Homework will be differentiated to match the needs and abilities of individual students and will always be a meaningful learning activity.
- 2.3 Students will be adequately prepared for the completion of the tasks that have been set.
- 2.4 Homework will be issued regularly to all students in all subjects across all year groups.
- 2.5 Homework will be issued in appropriate quantities for the needs of the students and completion dates will be both clear and reasonable; typically, a minimum turnaround time of three days will be set.¹
- 2.6 Teachers will ensure that students are given adequate time to enter homework details neatly into their planners and will support students who may find this difficult. This may be by encouraging another student to support the child by writing it in or by the teacher printing out a description of the homework which can be stuck into the student's planner.
- 2.7 Whilst this policy requires teachers to set regular and appropriate homework for all students, homework should always be a valuable learning activity and never 'contrived' for the purposes of complying with this policy.
- 2.8 Homework will not typically be set for completion during holidays in recognition of the school's expectation that families will take holidays during these times. However, teachers may set additional study tasks which may relate to revision or deeper learning. These tasks may be optional or intended to support students who are keen to further their learning. Teachers will always respond positively and in a supportive manner to students who specifically request guidance on how they can extend their learning outside of school hours.
- 2.9 Teachers will ensure that the work students complete as homework or extra study is assessed and feedback is given. This feedback might be in the form of direct teacher marking, peer marking, or by assessing a future piece of work that has been developed as a result of the completion of the earlier homework task. Whilst the process for providing feedback to students may vary across subject areas and tasks, students should always understand how well they have done against the criteria set for assessment.

¹The principle of a three-day turnaround is important to many families as it helps them to manage established evening commitments in support of their child completing their homework. There may be exceptional circumstances where a shorter turnaround time is set.

3. Types of Homework

Homework tasks may take many forms and, when planning homework, teachers at The Lakes School will give due consideration to the availability of suitable materials and technology in the home. The subject specific details below set out the type of tasks a student can expect to be set for homework in each subject. Whilst this information is not exhaustive, below is an overview of the type of tasks students may be set:

- 3.1 Tasks which prepare a student for the work they are going to be doing in a future lesson.
- 3.2 Tasks which reinforce work that has been completed in lessons to consolidate learning.
- 3.3 Improving work that has already been completed in class which may include responding to marking.
- 3.4 Reviewing, and, if appropriate, memorising what has been learned in class.
- 3.5 Researching at home or in school as preparation for future tasks.
- 3.6 Completing sections of a larger project or piece of coursework.

4. Supporting Students with their Homework

The school will support all students with their homework in a number of ways, these are listed below:

- 4.1 The school makes study spaces available to provide an appropriate environment for students to complete their homework. These include the library, room 15, the dining area and classrooms where a teacher has made an arrangement to offer a study support session for students. These spaces are available for use before school, at break time, at lunchtime and after school.
- 4.2 Teachers will provide feedback on homework to all students and ensure that this feedback is used effectively to support new learning in the classroom.
- 4.3 The school will respond positively to requests from parents and students for clarification about the expectations of a homework task.
- 4.4 The Learning Support Department will support teachers by providing appropriate advice about how homework tasks can support the needs of specific students.
- 4.5 On an annual basis, the school will provide students with a planner to help them organise their homework commitments.
- 4.6 Teachers will use their professional judgement when setting appropriate timescales for the completion of homework and will respond in a supportive way to sensible requests from students where they may request an extension to the homework deadline. Teachers are able to use their discretion when supporting students in this way. Responses may range from granting an extension and offering support to a detention for failure to complete homework.
- 4.7 Teachers will reward students for completing homework to a good standard in line with the school's rewards system.
- 4.8 Where appropriate, teachers will provide parents with advice on how they can support their child with their homework.
- 4.9 Form Tutors will use registration time to check how well their tutees are using their planners to manage their homework commitments and engage their tutees in discussion about their homework.
- 4.10 Form Tutors will encourage students to support each other with their homework during registration time e.g. older students supporting younger students.

5. Our Homework Partnership with Parents

At The Lakes School, we value hugely the partnership we have with parents and we know that this partnership is a key ingredient in helping all of our students to establish a positive approach to homework. Parents can help by providing an appropriate space for your child to complete their homework and by checking your child's planner which could lead to healthy discussions about the work your child is completing.

Where appropriate, we would encourage parents to maintain a homework dialogue with their child's teachers and Form Tutor and this can be done by writing notes in your child's planner, by telephoning reception or by email once this arrangement has been established with the member of staff.

6. Commitment of Students

Students at The Lakes School value homework and work hard to complete it to the best of their ability. The completion of homework forms a key part of the school's Attitude to Learning expectations. In demonstrating a strong commitment to the school's homework expectations, we have set out the following behaviours that we expect Lakes School students to demonstrate.

6.1 Complete homework to the best of your ability.

6.2 Take pride in the completion of your homework by writing neatly, spelling correctly and by handing in work that is well presented.

6.3 Spend an appropriate amount of time completing homework so that it shows your best work.

6.4 Record homework tasks neatly in your planner.

6.5 Hand in homework on time.

6.6 Use your planner to help you manage your homework commitments.

6.7 Talk to your teachers if you are finding homework difficult and seek help when necessary.

6.8 Talk to your parents or family members about your homework to inform them about the work you are doing and to seek their help.

6.9 Speak to your parents and teachers well in advance if you think you will not meet the hand in date. This shows respect and politeness and also shows that you trust your parents and teachers to help you

7. Reporting to Parents

The school will issue assessment reports at 5 points in the academic year, these are called Assessment Points. These reports will include an Attitude to Learning grade for each subject and this will indicate, amongst other things, each student's attitude towards the completion of homework. Any concerns about the completion of homework will be raised with parents directly through a student's planner, a text message or a telephone conversation, by letter, during conversations at parents' evenings or through comments written on the assessment point reports.

Outside of the formal reporting structure, teachers will maintain a dialogue with parents in support of students completing homework and establishing good routines.

8. Monitoring and Evaluation of Homework

The school will monitor the setting of homework across all year groups as part of our whole school monitoring of teaching and learning. The Extended Leadership Team, ELT, will lead all monitoring activity. The ELT includes members of the Senior Leadership Team, Subject Leaders and all other TLR post holders.

Subject Leaders play a key role in monitoring the homework set by all teachers to ensure that it meets the expectations set out in this policy including in relation to the subject requirements set out below.

9. Procedures to be followed when homework expectations have not been met

Teachers will use their professional judgement and discretion when students have failed to meet the school's expectations regarding homework. A student may have not met a deadline or may have submitted homework which is not of a high enough standard when compared to their capabilities.

In no particular order, set out below are the range of strategies teachers may use to respond to students who have not met the school's expectations regarding homework. The strategies used will depend on a range of factors including the manner in which the student responds to the member of staff, the implications of not completing the homework for future learning and the number of previous occasions that the student has failed to meet the school's Attitude to Learning expectations.

In response to a student who has not met the school's expectations regarding homework, teacher's may (this list is not exhaustive):

9.1 Issue a warning and agree for the work to be handed in the next day and discuss with the child the reasons for the homework not being completed.

9.2 Issue a detention or keep a student in at break or lunchtime to complete work giving due consideration to the student's basic needs such as food, drink and toileting.

9.3 Record the incident on a student's behaviour log as a 'C1 homework not completed' or a 'C2 repeated failure to complete homework'. The school will then issue a text message notification to parents.

9.4 Inform parents that the homework has not been completed and discuss strategies to help the student meet the school's expectations regarding homework.

- 9.5 Write a comment on a child's report.
- 9.6 Discuss the issue around homework at a parents evening meeting.
- 9.7 Ask a parent to come in to school for a meeting with the student to discuss how to address the issue.
- 9.8 Issue a Subject Area Detention at break, lunchtime or after school.
- 9.9 Refer persistent occurrences to the Subject Leader, the student's Form Tutor or member of the Senior Leadership Team.

10. Subject Specific Homework Expectations and Arrangements

The Lakes School believes in a broad and balanced curriculum for all students as this helps students develop a wide range of knowledge, skills and understanding. As the range of knowledge, skills and understanding varies across subjects, so too will the nature of the homework which is set across these subjects.

In supporting students with their homework and in helping parents to better understand what is required of their child, each subject area will publish their homework expectations on the school website in their specific subject area section. This information will help students and parents understand the type of tasks that may be set, reference to any specific standards or criteria that might be used to assess the work, how feedback to a child about their homework might be managed and guidance on where to go for extra help with homework or further study.