

Walsall Academy



Homework Policy

Reviewed by: G Smith

Policy Title	Homework Policy
Policy Reference	WA/HMW
Description	This document sets out the Academy's Policy regarding homework
Status	Statutory
Category	Academy
Person Responsible	G Smith – Deputy Headteacher
Version	V 1.5 September 2024
Other relevant policies	
Adopted by the Governing Board on	N/A
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Data Protection	Data will be processed in line with the requirements and protections set out in the General Data Protection Regulation

Version Records		
Version	Date	Description
1.1	July 2019	Annual review
1.2	June 2020	Annual review
1.3	June 2021	Annual review
1.4	September 2022	Review
1.5	September 2024	Review
1.6		
1.7		

The importance of homework

Studies into the science of learning show that frequent exposure to the same information aids the embedding of information into long term memory. Homework has a role to play in ensuring students think about key material frequently.

Homework also has value in allowing students to revisit class material and to allow extended research into topics of interest. It is a form of independent practice, where what has been learnt in a lesson can be applied without the reliance on others, probing understanding.

Many studies have shown that students make better progress by completing homework.

In studying outside of the normal school day, students develop good study skills. They develop organisation, independence and resilience capabilities. Capabilities that are important for future study and employment.

The principles of setting homework at Walsall Academy

Walsall Academy encourages all students to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Exposure to new activities and teamwork can develop valuable interests and passions in students. Walsall Academy also has a slightly longer school day than most schools, with 5 hours 20 minutes teaching time in subjects per day, compared to 5 hours in the majority of secondary schools.

To encourage students to participate in as wide a range of extra-curricular activities as possible and due to increased learning time in the school day, the amount of homework students will be expected to complete at Walsall Academy will be minimised. A balance will be attained between the need for students to regularly review key material and embed knowledge and the need to provide time for out of lesson activities.

In Key Stage 3, students will complete homework in Core subjects. This homework will be set regularly and will ensure students develop good study habits. In Key Stage 4 and 5, homework will be set with greater frequency and across the curriculum, the setting of homework will be increasingly dependent on the demands of the subject.

A guideline on how long students are expected to spend on homework is provided below. Please note the information is a guideline only.

Key Stage 3	English	30 min per week
	Maths	30 min per week
	Science	20 min per week
	French/German	20 min per week
	All other subject's	Occasional homework

At Key Stage 4, students will be set homework by most subjects. The nature and extent of the homework is dependent on course structure. Homework is likely to take approximately 45 min per subject. Most students will have a 1.5 hour slot on their weekly timetable to develop independent working skills and some of this time will be available for completion of independent homework tasks.

At Key Stage 5, students should be spending at least 6 hours on homework and independent work for each subject they study outside of their taught sessions. However, some of this time is built into their school day, as independent learning sessions are built into student's timetables.

The nature of homework tasks at Walsall Academy

Homework is most valuable when immediate feedback can be provided. Taking this into account the use of AI packages will be utilised by the school, particularly at Key Stage 3.

The Century online learning package will be used to set regular tasks for students in English and Science. The use of Sparx Maths will be used for Mathematics. These programmes allow teachers to set quizzes and tasks for students to complete at home, based on what students have been learning in class. Where students do not answer a question correctly, the programmes are able to provide information to students on what the correct answer is. The programmes also provide background and foundational information students need to remember to fully understand the topic they are studying. The programmes use AI to set tasks at a student's level, building challenge as learning progresses.

The use of these AI platforms will continue into key Stage 4. However, at key Stage 4, students will also be given set tasks by their teachers to ensure they develop the necessary skills and learning to achieve their potential in external examinations.

Keeping on track of homework set

All homework set by subject teachers will be viewable using 'Satchel One'. 'Satchel One' can be accessed using either a home PC, laptop or any other smart mobile device.

Parents/carers are able to see when homework has been set to encourage students to complete all tasks. To ensure students develop good study habits homework completion will be specifically reported on in each module report.

Students will always be given more than one night to complete homework. Therefore, if students are unsure of a task they should e-mail or speak to their teachers ahead of the deadline to gain clarification on expectations. In most instances, teachers will be able to support students in a Session 3 class if additional help and support is needed. In addition, a homework club takes place Monday to Wednesday in the Library and is open to all (Session 3 timings, from 3.30 until 5pm).

If a student is absent from a session, it is still expected that they attempt homework set by the subject teacher, as all necessary information and materials will be on 'Show My Homework'. Before completing homework from a missed lesson, students should access the class material on SharePoint to catch up with their learning.

The role of parents/carers and personal tutors

Parents/carers play a key role in providing a suitable working environment for students to study at home. It is also important that parents/carers encourage students to get into good routines and encourage the completion of homework. However, homework should be completed by students with minimal help from parents.

Where parents have concerns on the suitability of work set, they should contact personal tutor's, who will liaise with subject teams.

Personal tutors also have an important role to play in ensuring students are completing homework and liaising with parents/carers when this is not the case.