



## CHRISTLETON HIGH SCHOOL

# HOME LEARNING POLICY

### Introduction

Christleton High School is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward thinking and safe learning environment in which students are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling High School education.

At Christleton High School, we believe that Home Learning (commonly referred to in this policy as homework) plays an important part in a student's education. The benefit of doing homework shall be instilled at an early age so that independent study will be enhanced. It is school policy that appropriate homework shall be set regularly for all students.

Home Learning supports the development of independent learning skills and the effective use of time and is used to reinforce classwork and encourage positive study habits, as well as to consolidate and/or extend learning and allow evaluation of student progress.

Students have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives and so we shall give careful consideration to ensuring homework remains well-balanced across the school.

This policy shall be reviewed annually or more frequently where required changes are apparent.

### Aims

Christleton High School's Home Learning Policy aims to:

- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regard to homework and actively input.
- Ensure that parents have clarity on what their child is expected to do.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Ensure appropriate homework is set and completed.
- Promote the use of Assessment to Support Learning (ASL). Home Learning shall be a valuable part of the learning process.

- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning and to keep them informed about the work their child is covering.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experiences by extending it beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practice and deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Role of the Headteacher and Governing Body**

- Frequently check compliance with the policy.
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy.
- Review the policy every year and make appropriate updates as required.
- Discuss with staff how far the Policy is being implemented.
- Meet with parents as appropriate.
- Support parents with information about homework.
- Inform new parents about the Home Learning Policy.

### **Role of the Teacher**

- Plan and set up a regular programme of Home Learning for pupils.
- Provide an explanation of Home Learning tasks and ensure all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensure all homework given is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Set homework that is appropriate to the child's ability.
- Monitor Home Learning regularly and make sure pupils are completing it.
- Mark (or arrange for peer or self-assessment marking of) homework and give feedback to pupils.
- Communicate with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Be available for discussion if necessary to parents and pupils about homework.
- Set homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensure Home Learning takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Reward quality work and praise children who regularly complete Home Learning.
- Record homework on the SIMS Homework add-on and direct students to record learning in their Home Learning Planner.

### **Role of Parents/Carers**

- Support and encourage their child in completing Home Learning
- Become involved in their child's homework and encourage their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Make sure that their child completes homework on time and to the highest standard they can.
- Provide suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Praise their child and celebrate achievements with regard to their homework.

- Inform teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operate with the school to find a solution.
- Keep the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and homework.
- Encourage their child to discuss homework with the relevant teacher and to seek feedback
- Check the homework set, sign Home learning planner and monitor performance regularly using SLG (SIMS Learning Gateway).

### **Role of Pupils**

- Take responsibility for their own learning and submit completed work in a timely manner.
- Have a positive approach towards Home Learning.
- Put the same effort into Home Learning as would be expected of class work.
- Make sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seek clarification if required.
- Ensure that they have everything they need to complete Home Learning and return to school all books and materials needed to complete their homework.
- Take pride in the presentation and content of their homework and perform to the highest personal standard they can.

### **Home Learning Tasks – Current practice**

- Every beginning of the year, each year group shall be informed of what is expected of them with regard to homework.
- Homework shall be set and assessed regularly in accordance with each homework timetable
  - Year 7 Up to 60 minutes per night (5 hours per week on average).
  - Year 8 75 minutes per night on average. (6.25 hours per week on average)
  - Year 9 Between 75 & 90 minutes per night. (7.5 hours per week on average)
  - Years 10/11 Between 90 and 120 minutes per night (up to 10 hours per week) plus revision for 2 months prior to examinations.

Where upcoming examinations require the student to conduct revision, teachers will reduce the amount of Home Learning set and/or ensure that it aligns with the revision required.

- The type of Home Learning shall vary both across the curriculum and within subject areas.
  - KS3 & KS4 Homework protocols are devised by Heads of Year who also monitor amount of homework set.
  - In KS5, the amount of homework set will depend upon the nature of the subject and set at the discretion of the subject teacher. The Assistant Headteacher and Year Heads monitor homework set.
- All students are expected to take homework seriously.
- All students are entitled to feedback, which may take many forms e.g. written, verbal and electronic.
- Feedback shall always be constructive (targets for improvement are important).
- Comment marking will be used to encourage and aid student understanding.
- Frequency of marking will be subject and Key Stage appropriate.

- Homework will be linked to learning objectives and consolidate earlier learning and/or prepare for future learning.
- It is acceptable and sometimes desirable to assess homework during lessons.
- Assessment of homework will include teacher, peer and self-assessment, where appropriate.
- The type of Home Learning will vary and may include:
  - Reading chapters of text books, poems, plays or novels
  - Project work given over a period of time.
  - Research work including the use of reference books, libraries or museums.
  - Drafting ie making a first attempt at a written piece which is then re-drafted into a finished version.
  - Drawing for Art or Design Technology.
  - Set exercises to be completed individually.
  - Learning and revising, particularly prior to a test.
  - Too much Home Learning can be just as bad as too little and can actually prevent a committed student from developing leisure interests outside school. The following guidelines indicate what we at Christleton High School believe are appropriate amounts of work.

### **Absences**

- If the child is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will normally supply work for these periods as pupils should be well enough to undertake work. In some cases, there may be exceptions to this rule and the school shall decide whether this is acceptable or not.
- If the child is absent for a long period of time, e.g. with a broken arm, the teacher and the parent of the child will agree on the best means to maintain learning in line with expectation.

### **Pupils who fail to complete homework**

- All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers shall keep records of pupils completing homework which shall be regularly checked.
- Failure to complete homework may result in a student receiving a detention.
- If pupils regularly fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to discuss and understand the reasons.

### **Marking of homework**

- Homework shall be marked in accordance with the school's marking policy. The work will be ticked to show that it has been marked. Sometimes, the work is marked in detail and comments are given on future progress.
- Teachers shall not mark homework that is handed in late unless accompanied with a parent / carer's note explaining acceptable reasons.

### **Pupils with AEN**

- The school recognises that pupils with Additional Educational Needs (AEN) may benefit from special tasks separate from the homework received from other pupils, it is important that they also do as much in common with other pupils.
- A balanced amount of the right type of homework shall be set for pupils with AEN, in consultation with the parents and AEN Co-ordinator.

Approved by the Governing Body on 01 December 2015.