

Campbeltown Grammar School - Homework Policy

1. Rationale of this Policy

- to promote the importance of independent learning, and the concepts of the twenty-four hour curriculum and life-long learning
- to assist pupils in achieving their potential
- to encourage pupils to take responsibility for aspects of their own learning
- to encourage and develop pupils' ability to plan and organise the time they spend learning
- to emphasise the view that homework is an important aspect of learning and teaching, intended to raise pupil attainment and enhance pupils' learning experiences
- to outline school policy and good practice in relation to homework, so that parents are better informed about aspects of their children's learning.

2. Good homework can:

- consolidate learning which occurred in class
- stimulate and interest pupils in their learning
- encourage pupils to learn and adopt useful and effective study habits
- support pupils in their learning of new topics
- provide assistance and support for pupils who need additional support and opportunities to learn
- provide extension work for more able, more talented and motivated pupils
- encourage a stronger sense of responsibility, by prompting pupils to develop a sense of ownership of their learning outside the class, and promoting enhanced self-awareness in learning
- help pupils to develop resilience through their learning outside the classroom, encouraging pupils to work towards completing challenges independently, to think about what they learning and about how they learn best.

3. Principles underlying the Homework Policy

- Responsibility for the completion of homework rests with the pupil, suitably supported by parents/carers.
- In order to reflect the breadth and balance of the curriculum, homework should be provided in all subject areas and for all levels of study.
- Homework should be carefully planned and integrated into the wider teaching and learning (*see the CGS Teaching and Learning statement*) which occurs in the classroom.
- Homework activities should be clearly relevant to learning outcomes and apposite to the course and level of study
- Homework should be targeted to the needs of pupils.
- Wherever possible, homework should stimulate pupils' interest in the subject/topic/activity.
- Homework should be set in appropriate quantities, and allow reasonable time for completion.
- In accordance with the general consensus of academic research, homework should increase incrementally in frequency and level of challenge as the pupil progresses through to the Senior phase of the school.
- Homework tasks should be carefully presented so that tasks can be clearly understood by pupils and parents/carers.
- Homework should be accessible to pupils, so that the extent of access to technology at home does not impede the completion of tasks.

4. Types of Homework

- Homework can be useful in consolidating learning, by encouraging pupils to practise, revise, engage with texts and topics covered in class, and apply new knowledge and skills.
- Homework can be useful in preparing pupils for future lessons, by encouraging background reading, research, and thus taking on responsibility for aspects of their learning.
- Homework can be useful in encouraging/allowing pupils to carry out assignments which need not necessarily be completed in the class.
- Homework can consist of single, short, activities, or more extensive, long-term assignments/projects which might involve pupils engaging in a series of skills and related tasks; e.g. selecting, investigating, researching, planning, organising, designing, drafting and redrafting.

5. School Practice

- Teachers will ensure that homework is accessible to all pupils; ensure instructions are clearly given and understood; issue homework regularly, in line with departmental practice; monitor and give feedback on pupils' completed homework tasks.
- Departments will develop their own homework policy to suit the requirements of courses taught, the needs of pupils, and adhering to whole school principles for teaching and learning.
- Principal Teachers will monitor and review departmental homework provision.
- Senior Managers will oversee the development of departmental homework provision; will ensure that homework is in place across all subjects; will inform parents of the aims, principles and practices of the whole school homework policy, and its place in wider teaching and learning.
- Homework will be issued to pupils via the *ShowMyHomework* application, including pertinent materials, to ensure pupils are able to plan and organise their time to complete homework tasks, as well as alerting parents/carers to the completion dates of tasks set across all subjects (*see Appendix 1*).

6. Parents

- can make an important contribution to the learning process by helping pupils to develop good homework and study habits
- can help pupils by ensuring that they have access to materials and resources necessary for the completion of tasks
- can help their children by their awareness/understanding of the child's learning style
- can help by talking to their children about what they are learning, about its importance to their development, and by attempting to apply knowledge and skills in other life situations
- can encourage that appropriate time is planned for and set aside for homework, by checking with their children and the *ShowMyHomework* application
- can access *ShowMyHomework*, which will inform parents of when homework is due, and how long it should take
- can communicate with the school/teacher where extra information or guidance is needed

7. Pupils

- can show that they are ready and able to take some responsibility for aspects of their own learning
- ensure that homework is completed to the best of their ability, and submitted on time
- can plan the time to be spent on their homework, in order to allow time for out-of-school activities and family life, while still accepting the part played by learning experiences and activities outside the classroom
- can show that they are able to seek support and extra help on challenging activities promptly, so as to ensure that the tasks are completed on time
- can access their homework by checking with teachers, collecting resources and materials as required, and via the *ShowMyHomework* website or app.

8. Monitoring and Evaluating

- Pupils' completion of homework will be monitored by teachers, and pupils' performance will be reported to Principal Teachers, SMT and parents through the school reporting, tracking and monitoring system.
- Principal teachers will monitor departmental homework, from the quality of tasks set, materials issued, pupils' completion of tasks and, where possible, to the impact of homework on attainment.
- SMT members will monitor homework for their link departments through consultation with principal teachers, subject teachers, and by seeking the views of pupils and parents/carers.
- Whole school evaluation of the effectiveness of homework policy and practice (including the use of *ShowMyHomework*) should be carried out regularly. This should involve consultation with staff and a sample of parents and pupils. Where good practice is identified, this should be shared across the whole school.

9. Completion of Homework

- Completion of homework is likely to benefit pupils' confidence in what they are learning, and enhance their academic attainment.
- Failure to complete homework will be likely to have a self-penalising effect on pupil development, performance and attainment.
- Subject teachers will request completed homework to be submitted on time
- Allowances will be made for late submissions as appropriate.
- Repeated failure to complete homework tasks will be recorded and reported to the Principal Teacher.
- If the non-completion persists, this information will be passed to Guidance teachers and SMT House-heads.
- Parents will be informed of teachers' concerns via standard homework letters, or by direct communication from Guidance teachers.
- It is not School Policy to issue discipline exercises for non-completion of homework, but rather to offer support to overcome any barriers or impediments to learning.

Appendix 1

ShowMyHomework

ShowMyHomework is an online tool to help you keep track of your child's homework. It replaces the Homework Diary.

Show My Homework will allow you to see the details of the tasks your child has been set, as well as whether or not the homework has been submitted and also his/her homework grades.

You can access *Show My Homework* via the logo on the school website or at <https://www.showmyhomework.co.uk> or via the app.

You will be provided with login details to your personal account, ready-linked to your child's homework calendar. Pupils will also be given their own login and are advised to download the *ShowMyHomework* app for either android or *iOS* for ease of use and to enjoy the full benefit of the system.

The overall benefits of *ShowMyHomework* are:

- 24/7 access
- View quality and quantity of homework
- Online support and telephone contacts for *Show My Homework* help team
- Apps available for iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, and Android devices
- Receive automated notifications before homework is due

In Campbeltown Grammar School we are committed to ensuring that all pupils are able to access all areas of the curriculum with equality of opportunity. As stated on page 3 of this policy, '*Homework should be accessible to pupils, so that the extent of access to technology at home does not impede the completion of tasks*'; therefore, if your child does not have access to a mobile phone on which the app can be downloaded or to a computer, laptop or tablet, please contact your child's guidance teacher and we can arrange for access to take place in school. Alternatively, we expect that paper-based versions of homework will be made available by subject teachers as much as possible.