

SANDY UPPER SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SPORTS COLLEGE

HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

Research has shown that the regular setting and marking of homework is associated with good education and effective schools. There is little doubt that success at GCSE and A Level is strongly linked with conscientious work done at home. At Sandy Upper School, we believe homework should be set to support the following objectives:-

- To extend a student's knowledge and understanding of topics
- To reinforce understanding and give practice in techniques and skills
- To support them in becoming independent learners

The homework set will be of the following types (depending on subject, age and ability):-

- Exercises
- Personal research
- Essay writing
- Preparation
- Reading
- Coursework assignments
- Note making
- Revision
- Learning

All departments have reviewed the type and quantity of homework they have set to make sure that it is relevant and meaningful. As a result of this, a homework timetable has been produced showing students where they can expect the majority of homework to be set. Some departments have adopted a flexible approach to homework and others have developed an innovative project approach.

On average, every child will receive between two and four pieces of homework each evening and it is expected that this will take at least two hours to complete. The homework timetable for each year will appear on the school website.

Homework diaries

A new look homework planner has been produced and students in all years are expected to record the work set. Planners are checked regularly by Form Tutors and monitored by Heads of Year and Senior staff within the Monitoring Framework.

All students should place their homework diary on their desk at the start of each lesson and keep it there, except when a practical activity dictates otherwise.

Parental Support

We ask parents to support our homework policy by doing the following:-

- Checking their child's planner to see what homework has been set
- Providing a suitable place for homework to be completed
- Supporting students in completing their homework
- Informing us when there are issues to do with homework through the planner

Additional Support

The school will offer access to the library before and after the school day to allow students to complete homework. A rotation system operates to allow access at lunchtimes. There is also a Study Club run by the Learning Support team to assist with the completion of homework.

The majority of departments also offer informal opportunities to complete coursework and homework. This is negotiated on a needs basis between the student and the teacher.

Marking and Monitoring

All homework set should be marked. In some subjects, certain types of work will be “self-marked” by the student and others will be marked by the member of staff.

Some pieces of work will be given “formative” feedback i.e. targets for improvement or completion of the task, whilst others will be given a “summative” mark e.g. a National Curriculum Level or a GCSE Grade. All work will be marked for literacy using the agreed, whole school marking policy.

The quality, quantity and marking of homework will be monitored initially through departmental monitoring activities but also through the whole school Monitoring Framework.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

All homework handed in by students will be marked, either collaboratively in class or by the subject teacher. Students will receive formative comments which help them to make further progress or summative marks which tell them how well they have done. Comments from staff in exercise and homework books should form the basis for students to set personal targets for improvement. We are currently reviewing our reward system and recognition of successful completion of homework will form part of this.

Where students do not complete homework, an appropriate sanction will be set by the subject teacher so that the work is completed. It is vital that students recognise the importance of the homework set to their progress in learning.

| First Implemented: June 1995 | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|--------------|
| Review & Evaluation | Rewritten Revised | Staff Resp | Gov S/C | Review cycle |
| May 2006 | PJS 5/02 | ACA | DMC | 2 years |
| | May 2004 | EMB | DMC | 2 years |
| | | EMB | Standards | 2 years |