

HURWORTH — SCHOOL —



Homework Policy

Accepted by:

Governing Body

Lead Reviewer:

Assistant Head Teacher

Review cycle:

2 years

Last reviewed:

October 2023

Date of next review:

October 2025

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The need for study support:

“Effective teaching is not enough. Success for young people also relies (along with good teaching) on the homework and self-directed learning that they do out of school hours, and classroom teaching flourishes when good teaching and self-directed learning meet. We know that those who are going to do well in life are marked out by their self-esteem, their motivation and their ability to take responsibility for their own learning.”

Prof. John MacBeath

Aims and Rationale

Homework tasks at Hurworth are based on the concept of retrieval practice and encapsulate how vital it is to ensure students are building a web of understanding, based on the non-negotiable knowledge of each subject. Therefore, our homework tasks are not simply appendages but, in fact, are at the very centre of the core knowledge that needs to be deeply rooted within a student’s long-term memory.

Our homework tasks also reinforce our whole school priority of ‘knowing more and remembering more.’ At Hurworth, we use the terms: ‘unlock’ to allow students to retrieve previously learned information; ‘key’ to highlight the non-negotiable knowledge of a lesson; and ‘lock’ which enables students to ‘lock in’ the ‘key’ knowledge that they have just learned.

Key Stage 4

Homework will be set to complement the course students are following. For option subjects, students will complete 1 hour of homework per fortnight. For core subjects they will complete 1 hour per week. The schedule will be determined by the Head of Department in each subject area.

The nature of Key Stage 4 tasks includes using a Knowledge Organiser which will be given upfront to the students. The Knowledge Organiser should contain the non-negotiable knowledge of the topic (the topic may either be current or one that has been covered previously and knowledge is being retrieved). The homework format should consist of a student being given a section of the Knowledge Organiser to learn (using a lock strategy) to be tested in class on the due date. In addition, students can complete exam style questions. Departments may choose to utilise online revision tools to check key knowledge throughout the course.

Hurworth School is keen to encourage students to develop self-study or independent learning skills. Students learn in a variety of different ways, therefore, it is vital that students are exposed to a range of strategies throughout their five years at Hurworth, to ensure they are properly prepared for their GCSEs and beyond.

Key Stage 3

Students will be set homework tasks in line with an agreed timetable. In core subjects an online task will be set weekly. All tasks are set and monitored on line using ClassCharts.

Deadlines for the work to be submitted will be provided as well as any relevant instruction sheets/resources. Students will be instructed as to how much time should be spent on completing each activity.

Non-core subjects are to set the equivalent of 30 minutes homework per fortnight. Tasks can be broken down into a series of smaller activities or a larger project based activity. Tasks should complement and develop the learning carried out in class. This could include independent research, learning key vocabulary or developing core skills.

Rewards/feedback

Excellent homework will be recognised and, where appropriate, rewarded within subject areas via ClassCharts. Appropriate feedback will be provided to students for all homework set. In line with our whole school rewards policy, students receiving green clicks have a higher chance of winning prizes that are on offer as recognition for students' efforts.

Non Completion

Key Stage 3 Procedure for non-completion of homework

- If the initial deadline for a task is not met students will be awarded a C1 on ClassCharts.
- If a second deadline is missed, they will be awarded a C2 on ClassCharts and an appropriate sanction will be given.
- If homeworks submitted are not to the required standard, students will be required to resubmit the work or complete a detention where the work can be completed with the supervision and guidance of the class teacher.
- Non-completion of homework tasks and poor quality homework will be monitored by the Head of Department of each subject area. Sanctions will be put in place as well as contact home.
- If non-completion of homework or poor quality homework becomes a recurring issue, parents will be contacted by the appropriate Head of Year and sanctions put in place.
- In addition, class teachers can book a student for a 'catch-up' session if they feel that they require additional support in completing a homework activity.

Key Stage 4 Procedure for non-completion

- In Year 10 the same process as KS3 is followed.
- In Year 11 missed deadlines and poor-quality work is recorded on ClassCharts.
- In Year 11 all students are available for lunchtime lessons and students are also available after school on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.
- Individual staff/Heads of Department will be responsible for 'signing up' students for intervention lessons at a time appropriate for them.

Roles and Responsibilities

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| Students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To complete homework to an appropriate standard and ensure that deadlines are met. • To seek advice and help when required from the subject teacher. |
| Subject Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure homework information is set on ClassCharts. • To offer advice and help for completing homework. • To ensure regular and informative feedback is given to each student through various methods e.g. teacher assessment, peer/self-assessment and reflection. • To ensure that students can identify a target to improve their homework. • To record positives on ClassCharts • To record non completion of/poor quality homework on ClassCharts. |
| Head of Department (HOD) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure homework tasks are planned into Medium Term Plans. • To ensure homework is a focus for their departmental verification (learning walks/work scrutiny). • To inform the Leadership Team of good practice or issues regarding homework. |
| Head of Year (HOY) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor ClassCharts. • To support HODs with persistent offenders. |
| Parents/Carers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be aware of the homework policy for Hurworth School. • To support the student's completion of homework • To communicate any issues/problems of homework to the Form Tutor/HOD/HOY. |
| Leadership Team | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To monitor homework recorded on ClassCharts. • To monitor any referrals for non-completion of homework and to apply appropriate sanctions. • To evaluate and analyse homework progress within the school. • To support staff in securing the completion of homework. • To monitor the feedback and tracking data for homework in each departmental area. |