BEACON HILL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK POLICY

Date of Issue and approved by Governors: June 2014

Review Date: Feb 2014
Amended: April 2014

Rationale

Beacon Hill Community School believes that homework is an essential part of all students' education. It gives them the opportunity to extend and consolidate work experienced during lesson time. It encourages them to produce creative, reflective and investigative work independent of the teacher; it also develops skills in personal organisation and a sense of responsibility.

At Beacon Hill Community School we define 'homework' widely to mean any work or activities which students are asked to do outside lesson time without the guidance of teachers.

It is usually done with the support of parents or carers and is an opportunity for adults, other than teachers, to become active partners in supporting learning.

Homework should be enjoyable for the student, stimulate imagination and creativity, as well as reinforcing what is taught in the classroom. Students generally enjoy continuing activities, sharing their experiences and ideas as well as bringing work started at home back into school.

Importance of Homework

There is no legal requirement for schools to provide a set amount of homework for school children but we believe it is a vital means of helping to raise student achievement and every student sees that the school and home are working together in a partnership to provide support and encouragement.
Homework provides a means for students:

- To consolidate and reinforce what is learnt in the classroom;
- To become independent and curious learners;
- To develop good study habits;
- To develop skills in personal organisation and a sense of responsibility;
- To prepare for the next stage of education.

Supporting teaching and learning through homework

Class teachers set homework on a regular basis in accordance with the homework timetable.
Class teachers have the responsibility to see that homework is completed.
Homework also needs to be:

- Specific and differentiated for students at different ages;
- Regularly monitored and evaluated to ensure that it is manageable by both student and staff;
- Supported by parents and carers.

Teachers should ensure that homework set is regularly marked and evaluated.

We have a homework timetable to help students manage their homework. **We have set out the minimum homework expected.**
There may be occasions when a class teacher does not follow the timetable but this will not be routine.

Homework Timetable Key Stage 3 year 7, 8 and 9

One weekly homework 30-45 minutes each.

- **Core Subjects – English, Mathematics, Science Humanities, and French**

One half-termly homework at least 60 minutes each

- **Humanities, Design Technology, Food, Art, PE, Drama, Personal development**

Extended Homework

Non-core subjects set longer homework tasks spread across a number of weeks usually half term. They are designed to promote independent study, to extend classroom learning, to encourage students to reflect on the quality of their work and to give students a clear idea of how they can improve their learning. Individual teachers set regular deadlines to ensure that all students successfully complete the tasks on time.

Longer homework tasks (projects) may take up to 3 - 6 sessions to complete. These projects will be structured each week in class for students who find independent learning difficult. Parents can view a summary of the project task on the web site, when it is to be completed, as well as documents to support the task.

Homework Timetable Key Stage 4

Students should be spending a maximum of 1 hour on each subject per week in year 10 and year 11. However this may vary when coursework deadlines are to be met. They should be expected to be doing homework every weekday evening.

We expect:

• Students to be offered a quiet space to complete their homework and pursue their independent learning;

• Work to be completed to a high standard of presentation– **students will be asked to complete work again that is not up to standard**, either at another time or possibly in retaining time/detentions.

Nature of homework

Subject teachers will set appropriate tasks according to the homework timetable. These should be differentiated where necessary to enable each student of whatever ability to complete a worthwhile piece of work in the time allocated.

What happens if a student is absent?

Students are expected, wherever possible, to complete homework tasks set in their absence. On returning to school, students should find out what tasks need to be completed and the due date. If necessary the students should discuss with their teacher a later date for the work to be completed.

In the future we hope to upload homework onto the school web site.

Recording of homework and homework planners

We have a subject homework timetable to enable homework to be spread across the week. Students are encouraged to plan their homework time and not let homework build up so it all has to be completed on one night

All homework is to be recorded in the student Planner under the supervision of the subject teacher. Details of the homework should be written on the board/OHP at or near the beginning of the lesson. Teachers should allow sufficient time for homework to be written neatly into planners and check they have recorded it accurately.

Tutors will check and sign homework diaries weekly. Tutors and subject teachers will respond to any comments by parents.

Students are required to have their homework planners with them at all times.

Students are required to complete and hand in homework on time. Subject teachers will contact parents if a student persistently fails to complete homework.

Homework detention may be issued for students who persistently fail to complete homework.

How can parents and carers support student's learning through homework?

Parents and carers play a very important role in the student's success. Parents and carers are asked to:

• Make it clear to students how much they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning;
• Praise and encourage students when they take pride in their homework;
• Provide a peaceful and comfortable place, free from distractions, where students can concentrate. If this is difficult, parents can contact staff for support;
• Encourage students of all ages to read as much and as widely as possible.

Help with homework
Homework Club is held after school in the school library resource centre every day except Fridays.
The library is open every day at lunchtime for students to complete homework.
An adult is available to support students with homework tasks in school.

Monitoring of Homework

Teachers
It is important to maintain the setting of homework consistently throughout the year. A record of the completion and quality of homework must be kept by the subject teacher using the traffic light system. If homework is not completed by the deadline date then the teacher may give a day's grace. After this then a **subject detention** should be issued by the teacher. This should be logged in the teacher's planner and recorded by the student into their planner.
If homework is not completed the teacher should also:

- Inform the tutor on the first instance so they may speak to the student about the homework
- Issue a school detention and Inform parents on the second and third instance

- Inform parents either by phone or by letter after the fourth instance and arrange to meet with the parent. If appropriate the student should be placed on a homework red report card which will be monitored by the Form Tutor /and or pastoral team.

Rewarding Homework

It is important for staff to acknowledge the consistent completion of homework, or the effort made by students when doing homework through the reward and recognition system with RAPs, texts home /HT certificates / prizes etc.

Amended by J Richardson after staff consultation April 2014