



**BEDFORD
GIRLS'
SCHOOL**

Junior School Homework Policy

Reviewed: August 2023

Next Review: August 2025

Reviewed by: Head of Junior School

Introduction

At Bedford Girls' School we believe that homework can play a valuable part of the education of every student. It can make a significant contribution to developing student agency, the Learner Profile and conceptual understanding. Homework is most effective when it is purposeful and linked to the curriculum. A successful homework policy depends on teachers, pupils and parents working together.

In the Junior School, we value and recognise the importance of parental support in their daughter's education. Conversations at home, time alone to explain concepts and ideas, trips away and practising key skills all contribute significantly to a student's development.

Rationale for Homework

- Allows pupils to develop agency, independent learning and key skills
- Fosters confidence in learning
- Instils self-discipline and personal organisation
- Encourages parental engagement in the Unit of Inquiry and in school work
- Allows broader inquiry than might be possible in the classroom
- Reinforces class work
- Gives students the opportunity to work at their own pace
- Gives opportunities for more flexible responses to a task set

Operational Procedures

Students in each class receive a homework timetable outlining homework expectations. Every week, core pieces of homework are set in English and Mathematics and there are weekly slots for learning the multiplication tables and spelling although students are expected to practise and review these regularly.

Students write down the homework instructions in their planners. They might write a brief description of the tasks set or if the homework has been shared electronically then they will write where to find homework online. In Years 5 and 6, when the teachers are confident students know how to access their google accounts, the majority of homework will be shared on google classroom or google drive. School email accounts will not be used for distributing homework.

Active Inquiry Homework

Active Inquiry homework is set to challenge and extend the student inquiry and aims to link the ideas they have begun to explore in class. Active Inquiry homework challenges and extends their understanding through individual personalised tasks. Active Inquiry homework encourages student agency, individualism and creativity and gives students an element of choice in what they are learning. This in turn helps to engage and motivate them.

Every half term, students are given an outline of Active Inquiry options. Students are encouraged to work independently, allowing their own inquiry to lead towards Action. Parents can help plan the homework activities and talk about the different ideas students have for exploring and presenting their work.

Active Inquiry tasks are presented in a variety of ways, using a variety of media. Students may decide to present their ideas by creating a podcast, poster, documentary, narrative or poetry, through the use of data-handling skills, etc., and a variety of other ways to demonstrate conceptual understanding and learning. At the end of every Active Inquiry task, students are encouraged to reflect and review their work and focus upon the skills and Learner Profile attributes developed through the task.

Active Inquiry homework is set as part of the homework timetable.

The Maximum Duration of Homework is as follows:

Year 3: 20 - 30 minutes per night

Year 4: 20 – 30 minutes per night

Year 5: 30 – 40 minutes per night

Year 6: 40 minutes per night

Adapting and Differentiating Homework

Homework tasks should be adapted and differentiated where necessary. Differentiation by outcome is not the only option. Numerous strategies exist:

- Choice of tasks
- Quantity of work required (eg number of words to be written)
- Directed tasks for specific groups within the class
- Different levels of support (eg writing frames at different levels, sentence starters for some students)
- A range of resources to be used
- A choice of presentation methods
- An additional extension activity for those more confident

Monitoring and Evaluation

Each student has a responsibility to:

- Keep parents informed about the homework timetable
- Record in the planner the details of all homework
- Find a suitable place to study, well away from likely distractions

- Persevere with difficult tasks but have the confidence to stop working on a homework task when she has, with diligence completed as much as she can in the time allocated
- Attempt the task, with care and concentration, to the standard expected and by the deadline given
- Ask for help and support as necessary but prior to the deadline set so that the work can be completed on time
- Remember that reading and learning homework tasks are important
- Respond positively to feedback given by teachers

Parents have a responsibility to:

- Support the school's policy on homework
- Provide a space for their daughter to work, away from any distractions if possible
- Check their daughter's planner weekly and ensure the tasks are being written in and completed
- Sign the planner weekly
- Write a note in the planner if the work cannot be completed for any reason
- Contact staff about any concerns relating to homework
- Ensure that family activities consider the time their daughter needs to complete her homework

Each teacher has a responsibility to:

- Set homework as required on the timetable and ensure that students record the tasks in their planners
- Set relevant homework according to the published programme and with sufficient time in lessons to allow students to ask questions
- Keep accurate records of the homework set
- Give clear instructions to students about the homework tasks, including a clear deadline
- Offer appropriate help to a student if she experiences difficulty with her homework
- Provide meaningful feedback to students in line with the school's assessment policy
- Annotate student's planners when tasks are not completed and follow the normal referral procedures if homework is not completed on time
- Advise parents of any continuing difficulty their daughter is having
- Respond promptly to any queries parents may have about homework

The Senior Leadership Team has a responsibility to:

- Maintain an overview of homework via random sampling of planners, and work scrutiny
- Ensure that students and parents are regularly informed of their responsibilities regarding homework