**BROWNLOW INTEGRATED COLLEGE**

**HOMEWORK POLICY 2020**

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**HOMEWORK POLICY**

Brownlow Integrated College recognises that homework is an integral part of the learning and teaching process. We believe it helps pupils to consolidate work done in school and develop time management and independent study skills.

Completing homework regularly in lower school ensures time management and study skills are developed from an early age which is essential for success in GCSE examinations.

The setting of homework applies to all pupils in the school and is set regularly across all departments according to:

* The needs of the pupils;
* The differing demands of each KS3 / GCSE subject and the associated coursework/controlled assessment requirements;
* The context of agreed departmental policies.

**Homework should:**

* Help reinforce and consolidate class learning and teaching.
* Help develop pupils as independent learners.
* Be meaningful and relevant to the pupils’ programme of study.
* Be marked for improvement, according to each department’s marking policy and returned promptly.
* Be an integral part of the link between the school and parents.

**Types of Homework**

A wide variety of homework tasks may be set - these may not always be written. All types of homework are of equal importance and are expected to be completed to the best of the pupil’s ability, presented neatly and submitted on time. Examples of homework regularly set are listed below:

**Written homework:** e.g. essays, comprehensions, report writing, writing up experiments, problem solving, project work, coursework, research tasks, making revision notes.

**Non-written homework:** e.g. reading, research, artwork, learning lists/vocabulary, making models, baking or cooking.

Pupils are encouraged to use appropriate ICT skills to research and present their homework where possible.

**Amount of Homework**

Homework should be set once per week for all subjects and twice per week for English and maths.

Homework should not take longer than half an hour **per subject** at KS3; or one hour **per subject** at KS4

**Student Planner**

Every pupil is given a Student Planner at the start of the school year to support them with the skills of planning and organisation of their homework. This planner acts as a record for pupils, teachers and parents, of the work that has been set and helps develop the very important home-school partnerships.

Pupils should enter the homework on the day it is given and indicate clearly the day it is to be handed in.

Parents are expected to regularly check their child's planner to make sure homeworks are being completed. The diary should be signed by a parent/guardian each weekend. Form teachers will check the use of student planners on a weekly basis. Parents will be contacted where pupils are regularly not completing homeworks.

**Allocation and submission of homework**

It is important that pupils should not be overburdened with homework, to the extent that they have no social life and cannot participate in Youth Clubs and Youth organisations. The amount and level of difficulty of homework will be set according to the age and ability of the pupils.

Teachers should take into consideration that pupils may have other commitments at home and should allow enough time between setting homework and asking pupils to submit their work to allow for other activities that pupils may be involved in.

Pupils should plan and organise their time so that they can complete all homework whilst ensuring they have time available for other activities. Aiming to complete homework as soon as possible after it is set will help ensure that the workload does not build up at home. Homework should be completed neatly and presented on time.

Establishing good homework habits and routines will help avoid missing homework or late submissions. Some good practices include:

* Having a quiet place at home to study.
* Ensuring that all equipment (pens, paper etc) and books needed to complete homework are to hand.
* Checking student planner daily for work to be completed.

Homeworks that are not completed or handed in on time will be recorded on SIMS by the class teacher. The Form Teacher, together with the Year Head will regularly review non completion of homeworks and a sanction may be applied. However, where homeworks are not being completed on a regular basis the Form Teacher will contact home to identify issues or problems. We will offer support to pupil who are having difficulty completing homeworks at home. This may be in afterschool or lunch time homework clubs.

**Marking of Homework**

Homework will be marked for improvement in accordance with the whole school marking policy and the assessment policies of individual departments. Marking for improvement results in pupils having a clear idea of their strengths and areas for improvement and provides constructive guidance for future development.

Through the marking of homeworks teachers can identify gaps in children’s knowledge or areas where they are struggling. This can help inform their teaching in future lessons. Support can also be provided to help children who are having difficulties.

Teacher marked homeworks will be returned to pupils within three weeks.

Written feedback is not the only method of marking work and assessing learning. There are a variety of approaches to that may be employed including; verbal feedback, written assessments and self or peer marking. Pupils’ ability to assess themselves and others is also developed through marking which is an important part of the Learning and Teaching process. Self-marking enables pupils to identify strengths and areas of improvement in their own work and self-correct where necessary. Actively involving pupils in their own learning will help develop their capacity for self-assessment and target-setting.

Subject teachers will record homework marks to help them monitor pupils’ progress and attainment in the subject. This will be shared with parents during mentoring meetings.

**Finally:**

By its nature, homework is not done under the supervision of the teacher. This means that the co-operation and assistance of parents in ensuring homeworks are completed is very much valued and needed. It is important that teachers, parents and pupils understand the school's policy so that the setting, completion and marking of homework is of benefit to all and leads to improvement in pupil performance and confidence in learning.