



GRAVENEY SCHOOL

HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGE 3

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

HOMEWORK IN KEY STAGE 3

The purpose of homework is to improve your child's learning – this can be done in different forms:

- research for a new topic
- finding out information
- making notes
- preparation for the next lesson
- going over work done in lessons
- learning notes
- putting what has been learnt into practice – written exercises, tests, essays
- doing independent study and learning
- exercises to consolidate or to help them learn a particular idea or concept
- redrafting and improving work
- reflecting on feedback and target setting

Homework set can vary from one-off tasks to longer tasks that are set over several homeworks; when this happens the relevant teacher will have broken down the task into smaller tasks for your child.

Increasingly your child will be asked to do homework using the Google Classroom website. If you don't have access to the Internet, your child will be able to use one of the school's computers in the Library.

In addition to homework set, pupils should be encouraged to:

(1) Read regularly for interest and pleasure. Your child can use the school library and/or join your local library.

(2) Go over class work in the evening and check they understand.

Many pupils need practice in reading and in spelling. Spending time doing this with your child could improve their general progress.

Encourage your child to do some independent research/work, to read articles and books related to topics studied in class (the library, using the internet, magazines and newspapers).

EXPECTATIONS

In KS3 pupils will have one homework per subject per week.

- In Year 7 each homework should be up to 30 minutes. (Year 7 pupils have a staggered introduction to homework – see below)
- In Year 8 up to 40 minutes
- In Year 9 up to 45 minutes
- Pupils in Year 9 are also expected to read various books throughout the year.

Your child has a homework timetable in his/her organiser so you can see which subjects should be set on which day. We do allow some flexibility for teachers to set homework at an appropriate point (that fits in with the work). However, each subject teacher should set one homework per week. If the homework is set on a day different to the one on your child's timetable, then extra time should be given for your child to complete the work.

Your child should write down the homework in his/her organiser, including the date when the work is due in.

One problem is that some pupils try and cut corners and write down minimal instructions, then when they get home they can't remember what exactly they have to do. We will be reinforcing with them the need for details and would be grateful for you to do the same.

You are asked to sign your child's organiser each week to confirm that he/she has completed homework.

Your child should present his or her work neatly. Each piece of work should have the date, "homework" written in the margin and an underlined title. At the end of the work it should be ruled off.

YEAR 7 STAGGERED INTRODUCTION TO HOMEWORK

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| Week 1: | Covering books only. |
| Week 2: | English, Science, Maths only. |
| Weeks 3 & 4: | One homework per night. |
| Weeks 5, 6 & 7: | One homework per night plus 2 extra homework assignments for the week (1 extra on 2 separate days). |
| Weeks 8 & 9: | One homework per night plus 3 extra homework assignments for the week (1 extra on 3 separate days). |
| Week 10: | Full homework timetable. |

Although undoubtedly helpful, homework can be stressful for pupils, parents and families. Here are a few guidelines.

- (1) Try and establish a set time for doing homework.
- (2) Encourage your child to work in a quiet, comfortable place.
- (3) As children get older they prefer some autonomy and responsibility for their homework, but do regularly look at your child's organiser and at his/her books. Encourage your child to show you/explain what he/she has done.
- (4) Work on the computer. Your child may be given research to do online. Subject teachers will give clear instructions as to websites, etc. and what to research. Your child will be given specific tasks which require him/her to work with the information rather than just print off pages.
Please be aware that children may well tell you that they are on the computer doing homework when this is not necessarily the case, so you may think they are spending hours on homework when in fact they are not.

Another problem can be pupils who do too much work and spend too long doing homework. It is important that your child has a good work/play/leisure balance. Encourage her/him to join clubs either at school or in the local community. There are a wide variety of clubs including sport, crafts, IT, etc. You will receive details of the clubs offered at Graveney both during term time and during the holidays.

Enthusiasm should not be discouraged and sometimes pupils really get into a particular homework and want to spend a long time doing it. This should not be discouraged. However, if you feel that it is becoming detrimental to your child's well-being, then please contact us and we will work with you and your child to resolve the issue.

If you have any concerns re. homework, please contact the school.

FAILURE TO COMPLETE HOMEWORK

If your child does not complete homework, one or several of the following will be applied:

- (1) He/she may be given a new deadline to complete the work.

- (2) He/she may be given a detention by the subject teacher (either at break, lunchtime or after school). 24 hours' notice will be given for a detention of longer than 20 minutes after school.
- (3) He/she may be given a department after school detention, again you will be notified.
- (4) If the problem persists, your child could be referred to the head of year/phase head, who will contact you.

Please read the information below from the different subject areas which will give you an idea as to the kind of homework that your child will be set.

Art & Design

- Some pieces of homework may be set over two weeks to enable the pupil to spend longer on the homework task.
- Most pieces of Art homework are to be completed in pupils' sketchbook. If this is not the case the teacher will have made this clear in the instructions set.
- Pupils should take pride in the work, as presentation is important. The work should be checked to see if it could be improved before it is handed in. Pupils should label and date the work and trim and stick in loose pieces.
- Once the homework has been marked, pupils should act on the comments and target set by the teacher. They should also refer to the homework information sheets in their sketchbook.

Computing

- The department aims for a 'paperless classroom'. This means that unless it is necessary all resources (including worksheets and assignment briefs) will be made available to pupils electronically. Pupils will be able to access these resources via the school's MLE (Fronter) website by visiting www.fronter.com/wandsworth and logging in using their Fronter address and password. Alternatively, pupils may access resources via Google Classroom.
- Whenever possible the department will be asking pupils to submit homework electronically via the school's MLE website and/or Google Classroom. This means that the pupil does not have to wait for the lesson to submit their work, and they can do so at home.

- The department provides access to all pupils to computer resources outside of usual lesson time. It is expected that the pupil will make use of these opportunities if and when required in order to be able to submit the homework on time.
- Please be aware that occasionally the teacher may set homework which does not require the use of a computer.

English

- Homework will not necessarily be written work. For example homework could be:
 - Interviewing an adult at home
 - Learning spellings or a grammar tool
 - Preparing oral work
 - Display type work
 - Researching context background/developing library skills
- English homework is closely related to class work or a future unit of work that requires some preparation.
- **Additionally, all pupils are expected to read independently, regularly – 20 minutes a day is the English Department's recommended minimum, this reading need not be related to class work.**
- In Year 9 pupils are expected to read the various set books at home.

Geography

- Homework tasks will build on work completed in lessons or relate to a current event that is of geographical interest.
- Homework tasks will be varied – a worksheet, a piece of writing, e.g. a letter, a creative task, e.g. a leaflet, a poster, a map, a survey, learning spellings of geographical words, a research task, etc.
- Some homework tasks will be given a longer time to complete, e.g. a poster for which research is required may be given 2 weeks for completion.
- Unless told otherwise, homework should be completed in the pupil's exercise book. If it is word-processed the work should be printed out and stuck into the exercise book.

- If the homework task includes internet research, it will have a clear focus and pupils will be given guidance on appropriate websites to use.
- Where research is conducted, pupils should present the work in their own word, we may ask for copy and pasted work to be completed again.
- If pupils have a problem with any element of homework, they should see their teacher before the due date to seek help.

History

- Pupils will often be expected to carry out independent research, they should not simply print out pages of research from the Internet and expect that this will be used as evidence of knowledge and understanding. They must select and analyse the information and present it in a coherent fashion.
- Pupils must remember that self-evaluation is an important part of the homework process and remember to fill in their comments in the back of their book.
- Pupils should aim to back up their answers with evidence wherever possible to give their ideas more weight and more historical credibility.

Languages

- It doesn't matter if you don't speak the language your child is learning, there is still plenty to do to help! Firstly, make sure your child has access to a good bilingual dictionary, for example the Collins or Oxford French-English school dictionary.

Learning homework:

- Test your child.
- Encourage them to say the words out loud.
- Ask your child to teach you!
- Do spelling tests with your child.
- Rewrite the vocabulary in order of preference/easiest to most difficult, etc.
- Read – cover – say – write – check.
- For reading and writing homework:
 - Use the textbook to check examples of similar texts/sample answers.

- Use the glossary at the end of each chapter to look up unknown words.
- Use the websites given in class as extra practice.
- Use a bilingual dictionary to check spelling, look up new words and increase your vocabulary.
- Check through written work for spelling, accents and word order.

Maths

- You will receive one piece of homework each week
- We use the online platform of SPARX for all homework at KS3
- Your teacher will explain how to use SPARX during your first week of lessons
- At the start of term, you will be given an A5 book in which you will do all of your working out for your homework
- You should keep this book neat. Your teacher will show you examples of what it should look like

PE

- Pupils will not receive homework on a regular basis in KS3, however we might set them a few tasks at the end of a module for assessment of their evaluation skills or in preparation for summer exams.

PSHE and Citizenship

- Suitable tasks considered appropriate to pupil ability could include the following:
 - Short assignments or projects, to encourage independent learning and self-discipline.
 - Interviews with family, neighbours, friends.
 - Critical TV viewing or reading newspaper articles.
 - Planning for a specific PSHE session (e.g. visitor session).
 - Preparation for a role play, a formal debate on their own topic of interest, evaluation of an activity that has taken place in class.
 - Practice simulations in various home environments (part of assignment on Disability).
 - Reflective activity on topic discussed in class.
 - Problem-solving task, e.g. giving advice on a given issue.

- Short accounts or stories, imaginative and creative skills like writing a poem or song.
- An extended written assignment or project covering an issue in greater depth.
- Dilemmas/scenarios to practice ethical and higher order thinking skills.
- Design a pamphlet for a target audience, e.g. Keeping Safe at Secondary School, aimed at Year 6 pupils.

Religious Studies

- Pupils in KS3 will be set homework once a week. This might be a written piece of work or some research or even a “thinking piece” of homework.
- Sometimes teachers may set longer homework such as a project or a formal assessment. In this situation the teacher may set the homework over a period of weeks.

Science

- Homework tasks could include:
 - Writing reports for experiments undertaken during class.
 - Undertaking research on a particular topic and using this to make an informed judgement or opinion.
 - Making models or producing a leaflet. PowerPoint presentation, poster or letter.
 - Making revision notes and answering practice exam questions.
 - Watching a scientific programme on TV or looking up scientific news articles from websites and newspapers.
 - Reading through their science class book and text book to review the work covered.

Some homework tasks will be set via Kerboodle (www.kerboodle.com) for which pupils are issued individual login details at the start of the year. Kerboodle also provides electronic access to the course text book which will help pupils when completing the homework tasks set.

Technology

- Pupils will work across a variety of DT specialist areas (Food, Product Design, Graphics and Textiles). Pupils will be required to perform a variety of tasks for homework. For example research, creating design ideas, planning, evaluating, etc. These tasks will normally be related to their current Design and Technology project, or will be set in order to prepare pupils for projects that are going to be delivered.
- Sometimes the homework may be project based and may last a few weeks.
- All work must be their own and state references from websites and books when they have been used.

DIRT

D	directed
I	improvement
R	reflection
T	time

This is something that all teachers will use in lessons. Basically it is giving your child time to ensure that their work is really presented, that all work is finished and corrected, that he/she replies to the teachers' comments and suggestions. It could also involve your child in re-doing a piece of work or a section of work in order to improve it.

Presentation of work and pride in one's work is very important.

We also want to encourage pupils to take some responsibility for their own progress and learning.

DIRT

DIRECTED IMPROVEMENT & REFLECTION TIME

This is when your teacher asks you to look at your work, for a particular purpose:

- To proofread it.
- To read your teacher's comments on your work / in your book.
- To read your targets.
- To think about what went well and about how you could have made your work better.
- To set yourself some targets for the next piece of work.
- To redraft your work or sections of it to improve it.
- You may do this as part of the lesson or you may be given it for homework.

Presentation of Work

Always put:

- Date
- Classwork or homework
- A title underlined (with a ruler)
- Rule off