

# Open Academy

# Homework Policy

<b>Policy Type:</b>	<b>Academy Policy</b>
<b>Approved By:</b>	<b>Local Governing Body</b>
<b>Date Approved by LGB:</b>	<b>12/12/2019</b>
<b>Review Date:</b>	<b>December 2020</b>
<b>Person Responsible:</b>	<b>Principal</b>

### Summary of Changes

The policy has been amended as follows.

Page Ref.	Section	Amendment	Date of Change

## **General Policy Roles and Accountabilities**

The Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT) is accountable for all policies across its Academies. All policies, whether relating to an individual Academy or the whole Trust, will be written and implemented in line with our ethos and values as articulated in our prospectus. We are committed to the provision of high-quality education in the context of the Christian values of service, thankfulness and humility where individuals are valued, aspirations are high, hope is nurtured, and talents released.

A Scheme of Delegation for each Academy sets out the responsibilities of the Local Governing Body and Principal. The Principal of each Academy is responsible for the implementation of all policies of the Academy Trust.

All employees of the Academy Trust are subject to the Trust's policies.

## **Open Academy Homework Policy**

### **Purpose**

- To improve achievement at KS3, KS4 and KS5 'On average, the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive 'leading to on average five months additional progress'.<sup>1</sup>
- To promote independent and autonomous learning

### **Objectives**

- Each subject teacher will set homework regularly and frequently. The nature of the work will vary between year groups, different classes, and topics of study.
- Teachers will ensure that homework is differentiated, structured and easily accessible.
- Homework will set at a point in the lesson where there is sufficient time for students to record the homework, by definition this will not be at the end of the lesson. Teachers will ensure that all instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class and sufficient time is allowed for the student to make notes if appropriate.
- Teachers will set homework that is useful and relevant
- Teachers will record all homework set on Sims.
- Teachers will record submission of homework on Sims.
- Teachers will allow enough time over the course of a week for students to complete homework
- Home work will be marked and students will be provided with feedback

### **The role of parents and carers**

Parents undoubtedly have an important role to play in supporting and encouraging their child with their homework. Parents can support their child with homework by checking deadlines and content on Sims Learning Gateway. Homework is given to their child and is a way of teachers establishing students' understanding therefore it is not expected that Parents should do their child's homework. Pupils to attend learning hub should they require additional support.

### **Teachers' focus**

We have established two key criteria for judging homework: its purpose and its quality. Homework should form an integral part of a scheme of work, and its value should be made explicit to students.

### **Systems and Management**

SLT links and Heads of Faculty have a responsibility to ensure that homework is being set and marked within their Faculty and that teachers' records are robust enough to provide accurate homework grades.

The amount of homework set any given week will vary, however, it should roughly equate to an hour a day for key stage 3. Homework set per week per subject will increase from KS3 to KS4 – some practical subjects will require considerably more time to complete homework.

### **The Nature of Homework**

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes-

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<sup>1</sup> Education Endowment Foundation

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a student's school career
- The amount and frequency of homework should increase as a student gets older
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the student, family or the teacher
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task
- Homework should be set regularly; weekly, half-termly or termly in line with the Faculty Policy on Homework
- Homework needs to be set at a point in the lesson when sufficient time can be given to addressing any concerns or explanation

### **Types of Work**

Homework will arise out of the demands of the course and may take the form of:

- Learning notes/diagrams
- Writing or preparing essays
- Preparing for class tests
- Practice in/revision of mathematical and scientific problems
- Completing class work, projects, creative or descriptive writing
- Computer work
- Coursework
- Skills in practical musicianship
- Research
- Completing DNAs
- Other forms of study relevant to the curriculum

### **Marking**

It is an expectation that staff should mark any homework that is returned by students.

This will help to give the whole process of setting and completing homework a higher profile and status. It will also reinforce the message that homework is an important and valued aspect of school life. Marking homework is a way of keeping track of who has completed homework, and of giving student feedback on how well they have met the objectives of the work. Additionally, marking of Homework informs future planning.

### **The Role of the Subject Teacher**

- Although Open Academy emphasises homework as an important element in student's learning, teachers take care to ensure that students are not overloaded with homework
- Subject teachers make sure that the homework is designed around the Scheme of Work so that students can carry on enhancing their learning with minimum difficulties
- Subject teachers or Progress Mentors ensure that written instructions are completed for SEND students and that it is written clearly for all students on Sims
- When setting work, teachers consider the age and ability of the student and the overall demands of their Open Academy course. They ensure that every student understands the work set.
- The subject teacher will ensure that everyone completes homework on time and in the correct book
- Common errors will be highlighted and revised.
- Homework will be returned to students as soon as possible and within a time specified by Faculty Policy and the subject teacher will keep an accurate record of key marks and grades
- Failure to produce homework must be recorded (SIMS) as H0 - Homework not completed. After school Learning Hubs invitations will be issued and parent/carers needs to be informed

### **Standards Expected of the Student**

- Students will check Sims Student App to see if they have missed any homework tasks

- Students will present their work neatly and, when faced with problems, seek the advice of the subject teacher as soon as possible.
- Students should make an effort to plan their work throughout the week and throughout the term to avoid becoming overburdened
- Where a student completes the homework at the basic standard H1 is issued. If the homework is of a good quality H2 is awarded. When the homework is exceptional H4 can be awarded with H3 in between. It is expected that students who do great homework are rewarded. This information will be made available on the SIMs

### **Role of the Head of Faculty**

- To ensure application of the Policy by subject teachers
- To write a Homework Policy for their Faculty Handbook
- To ensure Homework is being set and that Sims is being used

### **Role of the Principal**

- To check compliance with the Policy
- To meet and talk with parents when appropriate
- To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented
- Inform new parents to the school so that they are aware of the home/school agreement and what it entails

### **Role of the Governing Body**

- To review the efficiency of the Policy

### **Racial Equality & Equal Opportunities**

All children have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability. We plan work that is differentiated for the performance of all groups and individuals. The Open Academy is committed to creating a positive climate that will enable everyone to work free from racial intimidation and harassment and to achieve their full potential.