



Robert Clack School of Science

Homework Policy 2026 - 2027

Approved by Executive Headteacher:

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Rationale

"Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education". – Government White Paper, Excellence in Schools.

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. It is important in raising student achievement.

Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. (Homework club and the Safe Place club are available each day to facilitate this if required.)

Homework enhances student learning, improves achievement and develops pupils' study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

Aims

Homework enables students to:

- Consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- Access resources not available in the classroom.
- Develop research skills.
- Have an opportunity for independent work.
- Show progress and understanding.
- Provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- To enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- To take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- Engage parental co-operation and support.
- Create channels for home school dialogue.

Non-completion of homework

We expect completed homework to be given in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines.

The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for failure to hand in the work. Pupils may be asked to complete a detention, either at lunchtime or after school to complete the work.

- The class teacher may contact the Subject Leader or the Leader of the Community
- A homework report might be issued

Incentives

High quality homework and a good work ethos should be sensitively praised in class.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. Credits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be awarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a pupil of the week nomination could be made.

Responsibilities

The role of the student

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To copy down instructions for the task and deadline date into their planner.
3. To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
4. To attempt all work and give their best.
5. To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

The role of the Form Tutor

1. To include homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate.
2. To see that homework is being set and recorded.
3. To check that the planner is being signed by the parent/guardian.
4. To note and respond to any comments written in planners by parents.

The role of the Class Teacher

The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.

The teacher will:

1. Set homework according to the school and departmental policy
2. Give full and comprehensive instructions.
3. Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
4. Mark and return all homework promptly.
5. Provide help and support.
6. Inform the Head of Department, Curriculum Coordinator, Form Tutor and Head of Year, as appropriate, when problems arise.