



Homework Policy

Part of the Quality of Education Suite of Policies

Committee Responsible:	Curriculum and Achievement
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HOMework POLICY

Bentley Wood High School acknowledges the essential role of homework in developing the full potential of every student. Habits of hard work, self-discipline and independent study become more important as students move up the school.

Aim:

To develop the full potential in all our students as curious learners, eager to explore and improve their understanding beyond the classroom. To support the delivery and smooth running of the curriculum at all key stages. Enhancing learning in lessons and further developing our students as independent learners and thinkers.

The success of homework is a collaboration between teachers, students and parents. High expectations of quality of homework set, quality of homework completed on time, families engaged with their students organising and completing tasks. Students should be engaged in the variety of tasks set and should feel their efforts in producing outstanding homework is celebrated and rewarded. Successful communication within this collaboration is essential.

Homework is broken down into three parts, ensuring all students have the opportunity to work independently following a lesson to become fully prepared for the next lesson.

CAP: The three parts are as follows:

1. **Consolidate:** Reviewing or practicing independently what has been done in lessons.
2. **Application:** Applying knowledge from lessons, maybe with an exam style or problem-solving nature.
3. **Prepare:** Reading ahead or directed to research areas, to prepare for a forthcoming lesson and/or new objective.

Responsibility of students

- To check Teams using their 1:2:1 IT devices or family device for scheduled homework and deadlines.
- To complete homework tasks set by teacher to a high standard and hand in by the agreed deadline.
- To use their 1:2:1 IT devices or family device to support their independent learning at home.
- If the homework set is causing difficulties (complexity/absence when set), students must see their teacher or Head of Department with enough time before the next lesson or attend homework club to get support.
- To accept direct support if organisation and completion of homework becomes a challenge.

Responsibility of the class teacher

- To make sure a three-part homework is set regularly for all students according to the lessons and time allocation directed by their Department Curriculum Plans.
- Staff should ensure that all students are fully briefed on and understand homework set.
- To ensure communication about tasks set and completion deadlines are clear through the use of the TEAMS.
- There should be a minimum of 3 days between set date and due date. It is not appropriate to set homework overnight, however in occasions teachers might set a light touch task of no more than 10 minutes.
- Absent staff should include homework as part of their cover work and keep the expectation of homework being set high.

- Ensure that all homework set is checked, and records are kept on the quality of homework done in line with school and departmental policies.
- To use the 1* to 5* grading system for homework effectively as part of the assessment reporting cycle (Appendix 1)
- To sanction and support students who are failing to complete homework tasks.
- To celebrate and reward students whose homework is always done to the very best standard possible for that student.
- Communicate with parents, head of department and head of year when lack of homework becomes a problem with individuals.

Responsibility of Head of Department

- Heads of Department or responsibility holders will guide their teams through their curriculum documents for suitable and meaningful homework tasks for KS3 equivalent to 20-30 mins per double lesson and for KS4 30-40 mins per double lesson.
- Heads of Department will formulate their own methods for marking, evaluating, sanctioning and rewarding students for homework.
- This will combine guidelines given in the staff handbook, in department policies based on subjects' specific needs. They will ensure all members of their team follow these guidelines.
- Heads of Department will ensure homework is reviewed and improved upon as part of a MER review cycle.

Responsibility of the Pastoral Tutors and Heads of Year

- Pastoral leaders should respond following assessment analysis of homework scores and direct action to the pastoral team as required.
- Tutors should monitor the behaviour points of their tutees and arrange intervention with those acquiring a number of homework points.

Regularity

The table below sets out a guide for the homework time per night at each year group. This is also a guide to students and parents; if the task is taking significantly longer than the allotted time then they should give feedback to the teacher by writing a note in the student's link book. Following their timetable, typically students should receive a maximum of 3 subjects of homework per school night.

Year Group	Homework allocation guidance
Year 7 and 8	Approximately 1 to 1.5 hours per school day. Please note that does not include preparation time leading up to the internal end of year examinations.
Year 9, 10 and 11	Approximately 1.5 to 2 hours per school day. Please note that does not include preparation time leading up to the internal mock examinations or the final GCSE examinations.
Year 12 and 13	Year 12 4 to 5 hours per week, of independent study, per subject. Year 13 5 to 6 hours per week, of independent study, per subject. This independent study should consist of homework which is set in class, and work that extends and enriches their A Level classroom learning. Students should use a mixture of study periods and home-learning time to complete appropriate consolidation and curriculum extension tasks.

Many students at our school are involved in many extra-curricular activities and indeed this is encouraged. This means that students can struggle to find time to do both their activities and spend sufficient time on their homework which leads to extra stress, especially on the highly committed students. It is important that both parents and teachers encourage the students to seek support if they are finding it difficult to balance everything.

Generative artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial intelligence (AI) tools are now widespread and easy to access. Staff, students and parents/carers may be familiar with generative chatbots such as ChatGPT and Google Gemini. Bentley Wood High School recognises that AI has many uses to help students learn but may also lend itself to cheating and plagiarism.

Students may use AI tools:

- As a research tool to help them find out about new topics and ideas
- When specifically studying and discussing AI in schoolwork, for example in IT lessons or art homework about AI-generated images. All AI-generated content must be properly attributed

Students may not use AI tools:

- During assessments, including internal and external assessments and coursework
- To write their homework or class assignments, where AI-generated text is presented as their own work

Bentley Wood High School considers any unattributed use of AI-generated text or imagery to be plagiarism and will follow our plagiarism procedures as set out in this homework policy, the assessment policy and the exam and malpractice policy.

Appendix 1: Homework Scores

Homework (5* - 1*)

- 5* Outstanding - really goes the extra mile - above and beyond our expectations
Exceptionally high quality, when compared to your target level, with an approach that goes beyond the expectations of the teacher. Homework always handed in on time.
- 4* Consistently meeting expectations
Very good quality, when compared to your target level with an approach that shows independence and perseverance. Homework always handed in on time.
- 3* Needs to Improve- commitment to homework is inconsistent
Satisfactory quality, when compared to your ability, usually completed in full and on time you are inconsistent in your approach
- 2* Cause for Concern - Poor homework.
Shows little commitment to completing and handing homework in on time.
Homework produced is to a poor quality, when compared to the student's target level.
- 1* Unsatisfactory – Homework rarely done
Homework produced is consistently off your target and below expectations or not done at all.