



Hayle Academy



Homework Policy

School name: Hayle Academy

Dissemination: Website, Q Drive and Staff Share

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Date policy becomes effective: Immediately

Review date: Termly

Person responsible for implementation and evaluation: Deputy Headteacher

Links to other relevant documents: Teaching and Learning Strategy; Behaviour Policy

Introduction

Students leave Hayle Academy with high value achievements and life skills that provide a platform for future success and happiness. We are inspired collaboratively to research, design, implement and evaluate highly effective and sustainable solutions in order to continue to develop and enhance our school community. Continuous improvement is achieved through a whole school culture and shared commitment to creativity, engagement and professionalism.

At Hayle Academy, we have high expectations of all members of our learning community: students, staff and parents/carers. We know that effective teaching and learning is the key to unlocking our students' ability and potential and we all support each other and strive to improve our daily practice. Hayle Academy is committed to ensuring that all our students achieve their full potential. All lessons are designed with clear outcomes and strategies to engage students in learning and encourage independence and resilience.

Hayle Academy believes that every student should have the opportunity to benefit from high quality, regular and frequent homework. We believe that the most effective homework is "an integral part of learning," (EEF, 2017) and it is an essential component of our school curriculum planning. Therefore, all students are expected to complete the homework set as an important part of their learning. Homework has a significant impact on improving students' understanding and achievement and helps students to identify their next steps in learning.

At Hayle Academy we aim, through the Homework Policy, to provide a consistent framework that will allow students to understand that independent learning has a significant positive impact on future success and to give the opportunity for every student to achieve their potential. The policy's framework provides regular practice for students in planning and organising their time and to promote their individual responsibility for learning. This policy has been developed following a homework review involving the Teaching and Learning staff group, the iLearn student council and parents/carers.

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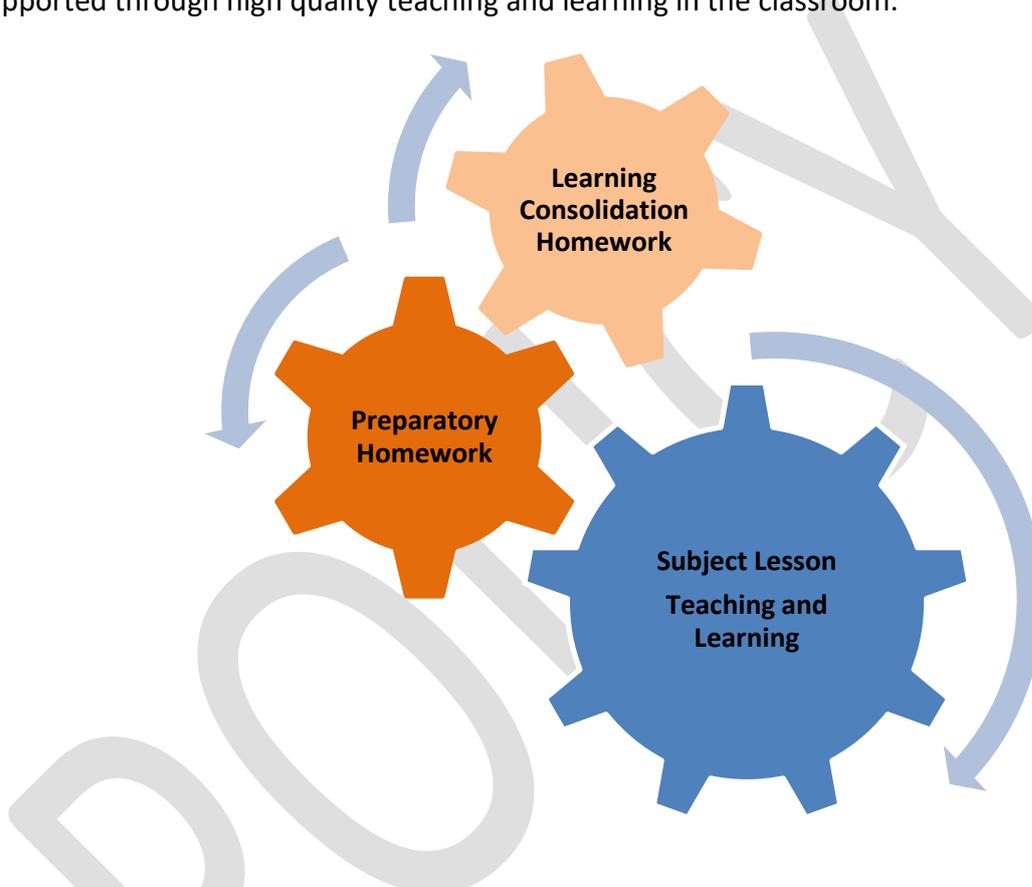
Section 1 – Effective Homework

1.1 Definition of Homework

The policy covers the provision for homework for all students at Hayle Academy across all year groups. Homework is defined as work that is set to be done outside of the timetabled curriculum as part of independent study time.

1.2 Model for Effective Homework

For homework to be effective it needs to be relevant, engaging, appropriate and challenging and to be supported through high quality teaching and learning in the classroom.



1.3 Purpose of Homework

- To encourage and develop self-discipline, good study habits and a range of skills in planning and time management.
- To reinforce, reactivate, extend and consolidate learning.
- To give students experience of working independently; to develop a sense of responsibility and commitment to their own learning.
- To involve parents/carers as partners in their child's education.
- To support assessment of student progress by providing the teacher with information about what the student can achieve without the support of their peers (or teacher).

1.4 Homework – Overview

- Students are expected to take full responsibility for completing their homework to a good standard by the given deadline.
- Homework is issued in appropriate quantities, in line with the homework schedule, and completion dates are clear and reasonable to take into account the home environment and extra-curricular activities. Students are always given a minimum of 48 hours in which to complete their homework. Longer tasks will be given extended deadlines.
- Homework is differentiated to match the needs and abilities of students and to promote opportunities for consolidation, reactivation and extension.
- Students will be appropriately prepared to be able to complete their homework. For example, where it is pre-learning for a topic students will be provided with clear guidelines and expectations to support their work.
- Homework reflects the breadth and balance of the curriculum, with the frequency of homework reflecting subject curriculum time allocation. In Years 7 and 8, homework will support Ebacc subjects.
- Homework will be regularly communicated to students and parents/carers through the 'Show My Homework' system. 'Show My Homework' is our main tool for setting homework, sharing resources and providing feedback to students. Teachers will set homework using this web-based platform, which shares details of the work, resources, and hand in dates. This is an online tool that helps our students to organise and manage their homework effectively through their 'to-do' list. Paper copies will be provided to those students with no remote access at home to remove any barriers to their learning.
- All work will be submitted via Show My Homework for feedback unless students have been specifically directed by their teacher to submit using Google Classroom. Google Classroom is a tool that enables the school community to connect, share resources, ideas and work without the need for uploading. It is the platform that is also used for Google Meet. Class codes for Google Classroom for this academic year are published on Show My Homework by subject teachers.
- Wherever possible, homework should be completed in full sentences. Students are expected to follow the school's policy for presentation of work when completing their homework.

Section 2 - Types of Homework

2.1 Practice homework

- Opportunities to apply new knowledge and learning or to review, revise and reinforce newly acquired knowledge and skills.
- Consolidation, e.g. practice questions, Basic 10s/20s, learning language phrases.
- Mastery, e.g. spelling, extension questions.
- Revision: where revision is set, there will be a specific outcome given, e.g. flash cards/mind maps. The teacher will ensure that all students have the resources they need to be able to revise and that it is made clear how students are expected to revise.
- Essays, extended writing or extended answer questions.

2.2 Preparatory homework

Opportunities for students to learn background information on a topic or unit of study so they are better prepared for future lessons.

- Background reading (reading resources will be provided by the teacher).
- Researching topic for a unit of work. Where research is set, a specific outcome, e.g. report, presentation will be set. Students will be provided with the resources required to complete the research including alternatives to on-line resources in case students do not have home access to a computer. Where on-line research is set, students will be provided with 3 website addresses to use. A maximum of one research homework will be set each half term per subject.
- Collecting resources or examples, e.g. for GCSE art, pictures of shapes for maths.

2.3 Extension Assignments

Encouraging students to pursue knowledge individually and in depth. These may be set as optional work.

- Extended writing, e.g. book reviews, school newspapers, creative writing.
- Designing and/or making, e.g. product design, model making.
- Investigations or experiments, e.g. in Science or Geography.
- Researching a topic in detail, e.g. local history, current affairs.
- Monitoring projects, e.g. local traffic, newspaper advertising.

2.4 Online Homework

Students who do not have home access to a computer must be provided with a print out of the online resource or a suitable paper-based alternative. **There is a supervised after school facility to support students to access online resources: one bubble (year group) will be able to access the library on a specified day in order to minimise opportunities for the possible transmission of Covid-19. This is available in the library from 3:05pm to 4:05pm each weekday.**

The following activities are NOT set as homework as they have very limited learning value:

- Unstructured and un-resourced research.
- Finishing classwork: this does not provide quality learning and may mean that students have very variable amounts of work to complete. Homework must be pre-planned to ensure activities are worthwhile and high quality.
- Word searches or crosswords.
- Posters.

Section 3 - Amount of Homework

3.1 Homework Timings

It is difficult to set a specific time for the completion of homework. The same piece of work may take one student a short amount of time to complete, whilst another student may take much longer to complete the same assignment. As a general guide, subjects will set homework which takes up to 30 minutes to complete in Year 7, rising to 45 minutes in Years 8 and 9, and up to 60 minutes in Years 10 and 11.

In addition to the subject- based homework assignments, students are expected to read for at least 20 minutes a day of their own choice of text. Examples include: a reading book, non-fiction news article or further reading around a subject, but the choice of text should be appropriately challenging.

3.2 Frequency of Homework

A phased rolling programme to support the re-introduction of homework - following the school partial closure due to the national pandemic - commenced from 28th September 2020. This is designed to help to support students and staff as the school returns to full re-opening. This will support students to manage their time and to build on their subject resilience.

Both frequency and the quantity of homework set will vary depending on the age of the child and the complexity of the tasks naturally increases as children get older. The table below gives details of the subjects which set homework in each year group:

Time frame	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
From 28.9.20 onwards	English, Maths and Science - set weekly 30 minutes per subject	English, Maths and Science – set weekly 45 minutes per subject	English, Maths and Science – set weekly 45 minutes per subject	English, Maths and Science – set weekly, one hour a week	English, Maths and Science – set weekly, one hour a week
In addition, from 4.10.20				Option subjects – up to an hour a fortnight	Option subjects – up to an hour a fortnight
In addition, from 2.11.20	Spanish and Humanities – set fortnightly 30 minutes per subject per fortnight No homework will be set in other subjects. NB: Ingredients for food technology will be listed on 'Show My Homework' when practicals recommence.	Spanish, History and Geography – set fortnightly 45 minutes per subject per fortnight No homework will be set in other subjects. NB: Ingredients for food technology will be listed on 'Show My Homework' when practicals recommence.	Spanish, Geography, History and creative options – 45 minutes a fortnight per subject No homework will be set in other subjects.		

3.3 School Homework Practice

- Teachers will ensure that the homework set is relevant, challenging and stimulating and will explain the work clearly to students to ensure they understand the context and relevance of the task.
- Homework assignments will be published by teachers on 'Show My Homework' so that parents/carers can have an overview of their child's schedule and to help students with their organisation. Parents are able to receive notifications regarding their child's homework status.
- Homework will be set with at least 48 hours (two evenings) prior to the deadline.
- Teachers will set homework in line with the homework schedule and teachers will ensure that homework is set according to the agreed frequency. This applies to all students. This will be monitored by Heads of Faculty and the Deputy Headteacher.
- Homework will be submitted via 'Show My Homework' unless students have been specifically directed to submit via their Google Classroom or if the student does not have IT access at home (in which case paper copies should be submitted in class). Feedback will be provided through 'Show My Homework' and will be assessed through the platform unless the submission has been directed through Google Classroom. In which case, feedback will be provided through this platform.
- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure their 'Show My Homework' on-line mark-book for each class is up-to-date by midday every Friday in advance of the weekly submissions report being generated by the Deputy Headteacher. Quizzes will automatically update the on-line mark-book, which supports teacher workload, and provides instant feedback to students on their progress.
- The standard of homework will be reported to parents via progress reports.

3.4 Homework Rewards and Sanctions

- Students will be awarded house points for outstanding commitment/ endeavour or whose homework is deemed as 'excellent' when submitted by the deadline. Praise postcards may also be sent home.
- Students who do not complete their homework will be given a demerit on the date it was due; the number of homework demerits will be tracked by SIMS.
- The teacher will provide a second opportunity for the homework to be handed in within 48 hours of the original deadline.
- In Year 7, to support the transition into school and children's growing independence, we will not sanction missed homework for the first half term.
- The Deputy Headteacher will run a submissions report on a weekly basis after midday each Friday. This will be shared with tutors for follow-up discussions, e.g. reasons why, are there barriers and if so how can they be overcome?
- It is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure the 'Show My Homework' on-line mark-book is accurate and up-to-date by midday each Friday. This ensures that that the submissions report is accurate and supports effective communication with parents as a notification will be received for parents with a parent 'Show My Homework' account.

- Where a non-submission pattern emerges with at least 2 pieces of homework not completed for the previous week, these identified students will be required to attend an after school homework clinic in IT2 from 3.05pm-4.05pm to support them with access to IT and support. Each year group bubble will be assigned a specific day of the week. Parents will be given advance notice and parents will be expected to arrange their own transport home. In the case where a student is unable to be collected at 4.05pm, supervised provision will be available until 5pm to support transport arrangements.
- Extensions are expected to be given as an exception; if students need an extension, they are expected to speak to their teacher in advance of the lesson. Parents can also contact teachers either by email or by note. On this occasion, a demerit will not be given on the first deadline.
- Heads of Faculty will ensure that teachers plan, prepare and set realistic and manageable programmes of homework. Heads of Faculty will ensure that accurate records are maintained by teachers of completion and non-completion of assignments via the on-line 'Show My Homework' mark-book. Heads of Faculty will monitor the implementation of the Homework Policy in their subjects to ensure that all teachers are following the homework policy accordingly. A weekly email report from Satchel One can be scheduled for the subject area to the Head of Faculty in order to assist in this quality assurance and monitoring process.

3.5 Accessibility

To ensure all students can complete their homework to a good standard, teachers will:

- Avoid setting homework that requires unusual, expensive or complex resources beyond paper and a pen.
- Provide a full resource pack for students where appropriate.
- Provide homework which is appropriately challenging.
- Provide clear instructions and check students understand what work has been set and how to complete it.
- Set homework at the start of the lesson.
- Provide textbooks, photocopies of resource sheets, or specific website addresses to support research homework.
- Provide a clear structure for extended writing, and/or clear expectations for the length of work required, e.g. word count.
- Not assume that students have access to a computer at home.
- Contact parents if homework is repeatedly missed, late or is poor quality.
- Remain vigilant regarding any possible forms of plagiarism.

Section 4 - Monitoring and Evaluation

Heads of Faculty and the Leadership Team will monitor the quality and frequency of homework through the analysis of whole school homework data via 'Show My Homework'. Time will be designated for this as part of the Extended Leadership Team schedule.

Information from these activities will be shared with Faculty areas and Governors. Teachers will be asked to provide feedback for further development of the school's homework policy. Student Learning Councils will provide feedback on the students' perspective on homework and feedback from parents/ carers will be invited as part of the homework review cycle.

Status of the Policy

This policy does not form part of the formal contract of employment, but it is a condition of employment that employees will abide by the rules and policies made by the School and Trust. Failures to comply with this policy may therefore result in disciplinary actions.

Addendum: Covid-19

During these unprecedented times set against the backdrop of the Covid-19 national pandemic, the school recognises that the implementation of specific aspects of the policy may be affected by the ongoing challenges faced. These specific aspects have been highlighted in yellow. It is the intention of the school to be able to run these after-school activities as soon as it is practically possible.

POLICY