

# Argoed High School



## Home Learning Policy

September 2016

Agreed by Governors:

.....

(Signed by Chair)

.....Date

Scheme due for review:

.....(date)

If you would like a copy of this document in an alternative format or your own language please contact

Argoed High School

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## Introduction

At Argoed High School, we believe that home learning (commonly referred to in this policy as homework) plays an important part in a pupil's education. It is school policy that appropriate homework shall be set regularly for all pupils.

Home learning is seen as one of the principal ways in which pupil achievement can be raised, if certain conditions are met. Homework:

1. Must be relevant to the teacher's curricular objectives
2. Takes place outside formal classroom teaching
3. Is primarily the responsibility of the learner

The benefits of doing homework must be instilled at an early age in all pupils, so that independent home learning becomes routine. The **aims** are therefore to:

- enable pupils to understand that independent learning is vital to achieving success
- give every pupil the opportunity to fulfil their potential
- instil in all pupils the importance of life-long learning
- provide training for pupils in planning & organising time
- promote a responsibility for learning within each pupil

Pupils have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives and so we shall give careful consideration to ensuring homework remains well-balanced across the school.

## **The Purpose of Homework**

Homework can serve a range of purposes:

1. Allowing practice and consolidation of work done in class
2. Allowing preparation for future class work
3. Developing skills in using libraries and other learning resources
4. Providing opportunities for individualised work
5. Allowing assessment of pupils' progress and mastery of work
6. Providing evidence for the evaluation of teaching
7. Training for pupils in planning and organising time
8. Developing good habits and self-discipline
9. Encouraging ownership and responsibility for learning
10. Providing opportunities for parental co-operation and support

## Homework Tasks

Homework can take a variety of forms, including:

- Writing tasks
- Note-taking and writing up notes taken in lessons
- Reading
- Learning – for example: facts, vocabulary, spellings
- Completing coursework
- Research
- Drawing or design work
- Preparing for discussions or presentations
- On-line learning
- Answering questions
- Completing worksheets
- Revising for tests and exams

## Responsibilities

### The role of the PUPIL:

1. To listen to homework instructions in class.
2. To write 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 PARENT/CARER:

The role of the Parent/Carer is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce its value through positive feedback. This will give pupils the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents/carers can assist by:

1. Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work.
2. Negotiating with the pupil when homework is to be done as a pupil's free leisure time is important too.
3. Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
4. Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
5. Encouraging consistent proofreading of all work.

6. Signing the Student Planner each week.
7. Providing the school with information about any problems through the Student Planner or by contacting the school directly.

#### **The role of the HEADTEACHER and Governing Body**

- Frequently check compliance with the policy
- Monitor the effectiveness of the policy
- Review the policy every year and make appropriate updates as required
- Discuss with staff how far the Policy is being implemented
- Inform new parents about the Home Learning Policy

#### **The role of the FORM TUTOR:**

1. To see that homework is being set and recorded in the Student Planner (weekly).
2. To check that the Student Planner is being signed by the parent/carer (weekly)
3. To note and respond to any comments written in Planners by parents/carers.
4. Meet with parents/carers as appropriate.
5. Support parents/carers with information about homework.

#### **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 appropriate homework according to the homework timetable.
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. To make good use of incentives whenever possible or implement consequences when appropriate.
7. Make referrals to the Curriculum Leader when necessary.

#### **The role of the CURRICULUM LEADER:**

1. To ensure that homework is clearly identified in the schemes of work.
2. To quality assure the homework set by sampling across all year groups.

3. To monitor and evaluate the homework policy within their curriculum area as part of the quality assurance process (each half-term).

### **Homework Club**

Homework Club is run every Wednesday lunchtime in room 12, all pupils are welcome. There is also support at breakfast club and after school club. Individual subjects will also offer homework support throughout the year and this will be communicated to parents/carers and pupils. There are therefore many opportunities for pupils to complete homework and consolidate their learning.

### **Pupils who fail to complete homework**

As an opportunity to consolidate and extend learning, pupils need to understand the impact this can have on their final outcomes. Home learning is viewed as a positive and productive use of time.

All pupils are expected to complete homework on time. Teachers shall keep records of pupils completing homework. Failure to complete homework may result in a pupil attending a meeting with the teacher. If pupils regularly fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents/carers to discuss and understand the reasons.

### *Checklist for helping your child with homework*

Show you think education and homework are important:

- Set a regular time every day for homework
- Ensure your child has paper, books, pencils and other things needed to do assignments
- Set a good example by reading and writing yourself

Provide guidance:

- Understand and respect your child's style of learning
- Does she/he work better alone or with someone else? Does she/he learn best when she/he can see things, hear them, or handle them?
- Help your child to get organised. Does your child need a calendar or assignment book?
- Encourage your child to develop good study habits (e.g. scheduling enough time for big assignments; making up practice tests) and proofread all work
- Do you talk with your child about homework assignments? Does she/he understand them?
- Do you and your child talk about plagiarism and its consequences?

Talk with someone at school when problems come up:

- If a problem comes up, please contact the teacher