

Wellington School Homework Guide: Key Stage Three



Context

The importance of homework is clear: educational research suggests it potentially adds up to five months' additional progress to pupil attainment when delivered and completed effectively.

Completing homework is therefore important but it can also be a challenge for pupils to manage, particularly in a world with increasing distractions and extensive commitments. At Wellington, working with our school community, we have determined, through fair and honest discussions and by utilising relevant research, an updated approach to homework for pupils, staff and parents which will endeavour to facilitate excellent learning at Key Stage Three.

The School has determined the following requirements for homework at Key Stage Three to ensure it is completed effectively and its value is maximised:

Requisites

- **Homework will be timetabled and subjects will be allocated a specific number of opportunities to set work each fortnight:**
 - English, Maths and Science: 2
 - MFL: 4 (2 per language) in Y7 and 8; 2 in total in Y9
 - Art, Computer Science (Ys 8-9 only), Drama, Geography, History, Music, REP and Technology: 1

- Homework tasks will be no longer than forty-five minutes
- Pupils should spend up to one-and-a-half hours on homework each evening. Research suggests that this is an optimum time frame for focused, uninterrupted learning
- Pupils may wish to supplement their homework time with reading for pleasure

The Setting of Homework

- Staff will be explicit in the focus and rationale behind tasks; for example, learning key vocabulary necessary for a topic, learning key information from knowledge organisers, or researching a topic that will be studied in the next lesson
- Homework will be recorded by pupils directly from the board in class as will the submission date ascribed to the task
- Staff will also ensure the task, details and submission date, as well as any necessary resources, are uploaded to Class Charts
- Staff have the autonomy to not set homework if it isn't pertinent at that point in pupils' learning; whilst homework is planned and designed to support all schemes of learning, there may be rare occasions where homework is not opportune and therefore the opportunity to not set this allows pupils more time to focus on other tasks
- If a pupil wishes to spend longer on their homework than prescribed then they may choose to do so
- To support pupils in managing their time and accessing necessary resources, homework deadlines will be a minimum of two days. This will allow pupils to access any required resources at school if unable to at home
- The recognition of homework completion may take many forms: written or verbal feedback, the utilisation of the work in a subsequent lesson or the showcasing of excellent work

Supporting Pupils

- Homework should be completed without distraction to maximise pupil engagement
Pupils should ensure that typical distractions such as social media and electronic devices are avoided and that they complete work in a context conducive to dedicated effort
- Pupils may wish to utilise homework clubs and support in school
- All Key Stage Three pupils are provided with a termly collection of Knowledge Organisers to support their studies and homework completion
- Pupils should seek additional guidance from teaching staff, their tutors or the pastoral team when required
- Families entitled to Pupil Premium support are encouraged to communicate with the School should resources be required to support homework completion

When Homework Isn't Completed or is Below Expected Standard

- Pupils will accrue warnings for incomplete or insufficient homework. Through the Class Charts system, any pupil who accrues three homework warnings will be placed in Homework Support for five days. Dependent on need they will complete any relevant homework they currently have or were set and get support with appropriate homework and study skills during this time
- If homework issues are pertinent to a particular subject, departments may intervene on a departmental level using the School's reporting and monitoring system
- Similarly, pastoral teams will intervene where necessary to best support pupils
- Should pupils spend the allotted time on their homework yet not wholly complete the task, they will not be sanctioned as long as the member of staff is satisfied the pupils has spent an appropriate amount of time on the task
- The School recognises the needs of all its pupils and may make reasonable adjustments to support pupils with additional needs and recognise their achievements