



Science handbook...homework policy

The school assessment and homework policy details the purpose of homework and states clearly that home works should be meaningful, set at an appropriate level of demand, increase the student's knowledge and be marked and graded. It is the practice of the School to expect science homework to be set and assessed every week to each year group.

Purpose

- Homework is set because of its intrinsic value as improving learning outcomes of the student.
- Homework is set to support the schemes of work within the National curriculum
- Homework is set to provide teachers feedback on:
 - Their teaching:
 - Students learning outcomes.

Guidelines

Science homework can be used to develop the following skills:

- Understanding of the subject matter. This aim can be well supported by homework support sheets given by departmental schemes of work and for KS 4 Student worksheets available from The Science Coordination group. Choosing the appropriate level and time demand for all students throughout Key stage 3 & 4 is the responsibility of the individual staff member
- Reading with understanding: e.g. Research or ICT based homework.
- Home works supporting Numeracy and Literacy; these can be included at every possible opportunity particularly the learning and recall of subject key words.
- Investigative techniques: e.g. planning science investigation, performing simple experiments, presenting and evaluating data and drawing conclusions.
- Revision based home works.
- Home works can also be set to reinforce work previously covered at school but also to extend and build upon classroom learning objectives.

Setting appropriate homework for KS 3 & 4.

Teachers should set in accordance with the school guidelines a meaningful piece of homework at least once a week. A brief summary is given in the table below

Year	Frequency	Approximate time demand
Year 7	1 in 3 lessons	30 mins
Year 8	1 in 3 lessons	30 mins
Year 9	1 in 3 lessons	30 mins
Year 10 (double)	1 in 3 lessons	45 mins
Year 10 (single)	1 in 3 lessons	45 mins
Year 11	1 in 3 lessons	45 mins

Homework Guidance for pupils (summative)

Introduction:

A range of methods for marking class work and homework exist within the department. Although assessment within the framework of the National Curriculum is supported by standard level indicators, assessment by staff of a student's progress includes assessment by class work, homework, end of module testing and end of year exams. It is the aim of the science department to develop a common policy in line with the school policy of marking, assessment and recording.

Purpose:

- To develop a standard way of marking class work and homework exercises across the Key stages in order to assess and feedback on a student's progress.
- To record in staff diaries homework marks and centrally, by computer end of module assessments of students in Key stages 3 & 4.
- To develop a standard way of grading homework's and a standard bank of impact points given to students on ways of making improvements.
- To create a common system of recording pupil progression through the Key stages through end of module tests and end of year exams. These data to be managed by key stage heads.
- To use this information when reporting to parents of a students progress.
- To use this information to assess whether a student is working towards set targets within science.

Key stage 4

Marking should fall within the GCSE assessment system and a piece of work should be graded according to the level of attainment.

These grades should follow the A to G grade attainment.

Key stage 3

Marking should include two strands:

Feedback for pupils, parents and staff is given by the following grading scheme. Pupils are given this insert at the beginning of every year to explain their homework grade.

Every time your books are marked, they will be graded for effort and quality of work. **Please read the comments that your teacher has written – they tell you how to improve your grades!**

Effort	Quality
A. You have put in a huge amount of effort, completing all class work and homework and making an effort over presentation. You have read the teacher's comments from last time your book was marked, and have acted upon them.	5. Work is superb – very tidy, all answers are detailed and written in full sentences, and extension questions have been attempted.
B. You have completed all work, but have not necessarily tried your very best in homework or over presentation. You may not have improved from last time, because you didn't read the teacher's comments.	4. Work is very good – answers are written in full sentences and work is well presented and well ordered, with neatly underlined dates and titles.
C. You have not put in sufficient effort – class work or homework is incomplete or missing, and work may be untidy.	3. Work is sometimes good, but in some places answers are not detailed enough, or have not been written in full sentences. Work may be unclear in places. Presentation is not so good – perhaps because you have forgotten to underline titles, or have written in pencil.
D. Virtually no work has been attempted.	2. Answers are not written in proper sentences and are not finished. You have not completed all the work set.
E. No work has been attempted	1. You cannot be graded for quality because you have not completed enough work.

Student targets for marking scheme labels.

Science staff are encouraged to use **impact points** from the following list in order to focus on how the pupil may progress to the next attainment level at KS 3 or 4.

A School	
Homework Grade	DATE _____
CONTENT	EFFORT
A B C D E	1 2 3 4 5
Your targets:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Always start work with a title and date.</i>• <i>Cross out mistakes neatly with one line.</i>• <i>Always write in blue or black pen and underline.</i>• <i>Complete the class work you have been set.</i>• <i>Complete homework.</i>• <i>Always write in full sentences.</i>• <i>Explain your answers using scientific words.</i>• <i>Complete more extension work</i>• <i>Always draw diagrams in pencil and use a ruler.</i>• <i>Concentrate on your spelling and grammar.</i>• <i>Glue in your worksheet in the proper place.</i>• <i>Do not leave gaps in your work.</i>• <i>Organise your work in a structured way.</i>• <i>You need to catch up on work that you have missed.</i>• <i>See me</i>	
<u>Congratulations</u> ! You have met last week's	

Teachers are recommended to feedback using these labels giving the pupil their homework grade and impact point for areas of development.

Homework development:

It is the aim of the department to send to the parents of each student an overview of the academic year and a list of homework's expected by the science department.

Homework compliance:

It is the responsibility of the individual staff member to mark, grade, record and monitor home works for each student. Where students consistently fail to complete home works, staff should decide on appropriate action to return the student to a satisfactory level of performance.