



Homework Policy

Guidance for Parents

Cooper School's aim in setting homework is to support student progress and to raise student achievement.

Why we set homework

The purpose of homework is to provide students with opportunities in:-

- independent learning
- consolidation
- practice - learning by doing
- completion of coursework/classwork assignments
- working not suitable to classroom situation
- self-discipline
- initiative and personal organisation
- research
- student/parent/teacher partnership
- enrichment/extension task

What we set for homework

Homework is planned as an integral part of the study programme for each subject; homework may take many forms including:-

Writing:	Drafting	Reports	Essays	
Reading:	Research Projects	Investigations/ visit	Public Library	
Talking/Discussing:	Interviewing	Watching Television	Listening to the radio	CD-ROM use
Drawing:	Designing	Making	A simple experiment	
Learning:	Revision	Word Processing	Use of Information Technology	

Preparation for Lessons

Appropriate homework tasks will be set according to the individual student's ability and the stage he/she has reached in the national curriculum. When setting homework tasks teachers will take account of the special educational needs of individual students

When? How Much?

Current recommendations about time to be spent on homework in each year are:

- Year 7 45-50 minutes per day
- Year 8 50-60 minutes per day
- Year 9 1hr - 1hr.30 mins per day
- Year 10 1hr.30 mins - 2 hrs per day
- Year 11 2 hrs - 2hrs.30mins per day

Homework may take the form of:

- A task set for the next lesson
- An extended task to be completed over several days in a week, with a deadline.
- A project or coursework to be completed over several weeks with a deadline

Planners

Students are required to buy a Cooper Planner/Organiser. Planners are designed to help students organise their time and meet deadlines.

Students should record all homeworks in their Planner, together with the date when it is due in.

Planners can also be used for home - school communication.

"Once you have been given the homework you should straight away put it into your Cooper School Planner, put in it what you have to do and when it's due in for and once you've done the work put how long you spent on it in the column".

(Advice from a Year 7 student, 2005)

Helping with Homework

Parents can support students in developing good homework habits by:

Providing a suitable place and conditions for homework. Ideally this would include:

- a table/desk
- a quiet place to work away from the television
- a good light
- protection against interruptions
- a supply of pencils, pens, a ruler etc.
- a dictionary

- Helping students establish a regular routine for doing homework
- Ensuring students set enough time aside for homework
- Advising on how students can balance the demands of homework with other activities such as sports fixtures, part-time jobs, going out
- Helping students doing research-type homework to access sources of information such as the local library
- Checking Planners to ensure homework and deadlines are being recorded and met

School offers extra resources to students through:

- The Library – is open each day to all students from 8.00am-8.30am, at break time and lunchtime and after school from 3.20pm-4.30pm. The Librarians are available to assist students find books and help with their homework.
- Study Centre: Homework Club – The Study Centre is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday lunchtimes and Learning Support staff are available to help with homework problems.
- The Departments - where study sessions are run at appropriate times and individual teachers are available to give help
- Self Help - obviously students will become more independent as learners as they get older, in the end it is their responsibility to complete homework on time and to ask for help if they need it to achieve their goal