



Policy No: 14d(2)

OUR LADY'S ABINGDON (OLA) HOMEWORK POLICY

The current version of any policy, procedure, protocol or guideline is the version held on the OLA website. It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that they are following the current version.

Document Details

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We comply with the Government guidance and regulations, currently in force, regarding COVID.

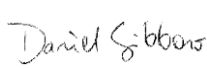

Availability: All who work, volunteer or supply services to our school have an equal responsibility to understand and implement this policy and its procedures both within and outside of normal school hours, including activities away from school.

Monitoring and Review:

Reviewed: September 2022

Next Review: September 2023

Signed:

Head	Deputy Head
Mr Daniel Gibbons	Dr Beth Reynaert
Signed: 	Signed: 

1. Introduction

To clarify the principles and procedures regarding homework. Homework refers to tasks given to pupils by their teachers to be completed outside of usual lessons. Homework activities vary significantly, particularly between younger and older pupils, including but not limited to home reading activities, longer projects or essays and more directed and focused work such as revision for tests.

EEF evidence-informed research shows that:

Homework (especially at secondary schools) has a positive impact – an average 5 months additional progress. Perhaps more importantly studies suggest a high level of variation in regards to this impact dependent on:

- the quality of homework set (Homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective)
- the support in place for pupils to complete it (including homework clubs)
- the feedback pupils receive on their homework.

2. Aims and Objectives

The purpose of homework

- to increase a specific area of knowledge
- to develop fluency on a particular area
- 'independent learning to practice and consolidate skills
- conduct in-depth inquiry
- prepare for lessons or revise for exams.'
- flipped learning' models, where pupils prepare at home for classroom discussion and application tasks.

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OLA regards homework as an essential and valuable part of a good education for the following reasons. It:

- improves study skills
- encourages independence and initiative
- can help to improve self-confidence
- allows more effective use of lesson time
- helps parents/guardians, pupils and teachers to monitor progress
- allows pupils to use additional resources that may not be readily available to them in the classroom.
- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other pupils on the one hand and the external discipline of the timetable, bells etc. on the other. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
- Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for creative and thoughtful work of all kinds.
- It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
- It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
- It gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines.
- It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at secondary school.

One factor that affects the impact is implementation. The features of effective homework that give it the best chance of success 'may include':

- Considering the quality of homework over the quantity.
- Using well-designed tasks that are linked to classroom learning.
- Clearly setting out the aims of homework to pupils.
- Understanding and addressing any barriers to completion, such as access to a learning device or resources.
- Explicitly teaching independent learning strategies.
- Providing high-quality feedback to improve pupil learning.
- Monitoring the impact homework on pupil engagement, progress and attainment.

All homework tasks will be either reviewed, used or marked in a subsequent lesson after the submission deadline.

3. Homework organisation and procedures

OLA aims to make homework as accessible, and yet challenging, as possible for all students.

- **Lesson time:** Each homework task is clearly explained to pupils, with sufficient time in the lesson set aside for this purpose. Where necessary, the teacher may need to model how to complete certain sections of it, checking the class understand the homework and then checking in on individual students they know may struggle. Pupils may wish to write the homework down in their planners, but all homework must be set on Teams, as an assignment under the specific class Team.
- **Clear and Concise Online Instructions:** Pupils are supplied with clear, concise and step by step explanations from staff, which ensures the successful completion of homework. Detailed instructions are given within the Teams assignment.
- **Worked Examples:** Some subjects may utilise deconstructed worked examples to illustrate the concept that the homework is covering. Worked examples provide a great way to demonstrate to pupils how to complete a task and also the expected standard that they should aim for.
- **Attaching Supporting Resources:** when setting homework, staff consider where pupils are most likely to go if they become stuck. Their options may include a sibling, parent or friend, their teacher or perhaps most likely "Google". Unfortunately, Google may not always be as helpful as they expect, often giving them a vast array of information that they cannot filter for their needs, while in many cases (even where they are willing) parents may not have the knowledge to support. As a result, it is important that we offer both the students (and willing parents) supporting resources such as knowledge organisers, links to vetted websites or videos etc so that they may be able to "unstick" themselves. It is also

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important that we model to students how we as subject experts would refer to these resources if we became stuck, thus demonstrating the self-regulation skills necessary for successful learning.

Homework schedule and frequency

- In Years 7-11, homework is set on a regular timetabled basis (See **Appendix 1**). In some circumstances there may be no appropriate work that could be set for homework, in which case, the teacher concerned will make this clear to the class.
- In the L6 and U6, there is no set homework timetable; teachers set homework as required.
- All pupils in Years 7-11 have a homework planner in which they record each homework set and when it is to be handed in.
- All homework is set on Teams, which students can access from any browser.
- Individual subject teachers take responsibility for ensuring that pupils know how and when homework is to be handed in, for example on the homework shelves or in a lesson.
- If a pupil is unable to complete homework because of illness, family commitments, etc., he/she must bring a note of explanation from his/her parents/guardians.
- If a pupil misses a lesson because of absence, it is his/her own responsibility on return to ascertain what homework has been missed and to take steps to catch up.
- The first time that homework is handed in late or incomplete, a verbal warning will be given and a ClassCharts negative point. Sanctions are managed according to the Positive Behaviour Code.

The expectation is that a student at KS3 will spend 45-60 minutes each night completing homework and students at KS4 will spend 60-90 minutes. KS5 students are expected to spend at least 10 hours each week working on each of their subjects (including lesson time).

Recording and monitoring homework

All homework is recorded and outlined to students on Teams. At the start of the academic year, all students and parents/guardians will be given a unique set of login details to allow them to access ClassCharts either on the computer, or on a mobile device. This enables parents to see the build up of rewards and sanctions across the year.

Parents/guardians will be able to see the assigned tasks and deadlines on Teams and there is an expectation that parents/guardians are regularly keeping track of homework set and supporting their son/daughter at home in ensuring tasks are completed.

Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)

- Year 3: Every night for 30 mins Mainly in Maths and English with work being set occasionally in RE, Science, History or Geography.
- Year 4: Every night for 45 mins. Mainly in Maths and English with work being set occasionally in RE, Science, History or Geography.
- **In addition** to the above, we strongly encourage daily practice in spellings, times tables and a minimum of 15 minutes reading of their school book to an adult each evening.
- Children must ensure that their reading diary is kept up to date at all times.
- During holiday periods it is strongly recommended that children are encouraged to read regularly and maintain their reading diaries as well as practise their times tables. Other work may be set by the teacher to consolidate skills if this is felt appropriate e.g. handwriting.

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

- Year 5: Every night for 60 mins. Regular homework will be given in Maths, English, Geography, Science, History and occasionally in RE.
- Year 6: Every night for 60 mins. Regular homework will be given in Maths, English, Geography, Science, History and occasionally in RE.
- **In addition** to the above, we strongly encourage daily practice in spellings, times tables and a minimum of 15 minutes of independent reading each evening. They should read with an adult, discussing what they have read, twice a week.
- Children in Year 5 must ensure that their reading diary is kept up to date at all times.
- In Years 5 and 6 homework may need to be completed at the weekend.

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- During holiday periods it is strongly recommended that children are encouraged to read regularly and maintain their reading diaries as well as practise their times tables and handwriting. Other work may be set by the teacher to consolidate skills if this is considered appropriate.

4. Marking and assessment

- Marking homework forms an integral part of our assessment policy.
- We aim to return marked homework to the pupils as soon as possible, giving constructive feedback and targets for improvement where appropriate.
- Each pupil at Key Stage 2 is given a homework diary or planner at the beginning of the year. It should be used by them to record what homework has been set and when it is due in. Parents should check their child's planner or diary regularly and support their child to organise their homework.

5. Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to:

- Help their child organise his or her time to the best advantage.
- Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
- Take a positive and active interest in their child's work at home.
- Let the school know if there are issues with homework that they cannot resolve.

6. Failure to hand in homework (Years 3 to 6)

It is expected that homework will be completed and handed in on time. This gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines and facilitates staff with their marking schedules. If homework is not handed in the following action is taken:

- The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to hand in the work.
- Pupils may be asked to complete the work at break time, lunch time, during one of their designated clubs or to take it home and complete for the next day.
- The class teacher may contact the parents.
- The Headteacher may be informed.

Appendix 1: Examples of typical homework timetables

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE – YEAR 7 – 2021-2022 (Timetable starts Monday 13 September)

- Pupils in Y7 are expected to spend no more than 20 minutes on homework in each of the allocated subjects per day.
- Subject staff will tell the pupils when they expect the homework to be handed in. **Wherever possible, deadlines should not be for the next day.**
- Wk 1, Wk 2 and Wk 3 indicate the week in which the homework will first be set, eg for 7A on Wednesday in Wk 1 Maths will be set, in Wk 2 Maths and RS and in Wk 3 Maths, RS and Music. From Wk 4 onwards all the subjects specified per day will be set.

7A	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	English	Latin	Maths	French/Spanish	Maths
Wk 2	French/Spanish	Art	Religious Studies	English	Geography
Wk 3	History	Science	Music	Textiles or Computing	Food or Design Tech
Wk 4	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>

7B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	English	English	Maths	French/Spanish	Maths
Wk 2	French/Spanish	Latin	Textiles or Design T	Art	Geography
Wk 3	Science	Religious Studies	Food or Computing	History	Music
Wk 4	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>

7C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	French/Spanish	English (lesson on Mon)	Maths	French/Spanish	Maths
Wk 2	Food or Textiles	Art	Design T or Com	Religious Studies	Science
Wk 3	Latin	Geography	Music	History	English
Wk 4	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE – YEAR 8 – 2021-2022 (Timetable starts Monday 13 September)

- Pupils in Y8 are expected to spend no more than 20 minutes on homework in each of the allocated subjects per day.
- Subject staff will tell the pupils when they expect the homework to be handed in. **Wherever possible, deadlines should not be for the next day.**
- Wk 1, Wk 2 and Wk 3 indicate the week in which the homework will first be set, eg for 8A on Wednesday in Wk 1 Science will be set, in Wk 2 Science and Music and in Wk 3 Science, Music and Food or computing.

8A	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	French/Spanish	Maths	Science	French/Spanish	Maths
Wk 2	History	English	Music	English	Textiles or Design T
Wk 3	Religious Studies	Latin (set in Mon lesson)	Food or Computing	Geography	Art
Wk 4	Science <i>All above subjects</i>	Science <i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>

8B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	French/Spanish	Maths	Science	French/Spanish	Maths
Wk 2	Textiles or Food	English	Music	English	Art; Design T or Com
Wk 3	Religious Studies	Latin (set in Mon lesson)		Geography	History
Wk 4	Science <i>All above subjects</i>	Science <i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>

8C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Wk 1	French/Spanish	Maths	Science	French/Spanish	Maths
Wk 2	Geography	English	Art	English	Music; Food or Com
Wk 3	Religious Studies	Latin (set in Mon lesson)		Textiles or Design T	History
Wk 4	Science <i>All above subjects</i>	Science <i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>	<i>All above subjects</i>

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HOMEWORK TIMETABLE – YEAR 9 – 2021-2022

- Pupils in Y9 are expected to spend no more than 30 minutes on homework in each of the allocated subjects per day.
- Subject staff will tell the pupils when they expect the homework to be handed in. **Wherever possible, deadlines should not be for the next day.**

9A	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Maths Com, Art, Drama Latin, Text, Dr, DT History	Latin, Text, Com, Food English Religious Studies	DT, Food, Art, Mu Science French/Spanish	Science x 2 Maths English	French/Spanish Geography

9B	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Maths Com, Art, Drama Latin, Text, Dr, DT Geography	Latin, Text, Com, Food English Religious Studies	DT, Food, Art, Mu Science French/Spanish	Science x 2 Maths English	French/Spanish History (set in Thurs lesson)

9C	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	Maths Com, Art, Drama Latin, Text, Dr, DT History	Latin, Text, Com, Food English Religious Studies	DT, Food, Art, Mu Science French/Spanish	Science x 2 Maths English	French/Spanish Geog (set in Thurs lesson)

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE – YEAR 10 – 2021-2022

- Pupils in Y10 are expected to spend between 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours and 30 minutes on their homework in total each day.
- Subject staff will tell the pupils when they expect the homework to be handed in. **Wherever possible, deadlines should not be for the next day.**
- Option blocks – for some subjects there will be 1 homework per week and some 2 homeworks per week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
English Religious Studies Science subjects	Maths Science subjects French/Spanish	English Options in Block B Options in Block C Options in Block A	Religious Studies Maths Options in Block C	French/Spanish Options in Block B Science subjects Options in Block A

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HOMEWORK TIMETABLE – YEAR 11 – 2021-2022

- Pupils in Y11 are expected to spend between 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours and 30 minutes on their homework in total each day.
- Subject staff will tell the pupils when they expect the homework to be handed in. **Wherever possible, deadlines should not be for the next day.**
- Option Blocks – for some subjects there will be 1 homework per week and some 2 homeworks per week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Options in Block A English Science subjects	Options in Block B Science subjects Maths Options in Block C	Options in Block A French/Spanish Religious Studies (set on Tues)	English Options in Block B Options in Block C (set on Weds)	Maths Science subjects Religious Studies French/Spanish