



## Homework Policy\*

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**\*This policy is awaiting formal ratification by the governing body for September 2015**

## Overview

*“Homework is not an optional extra, but an essential part of a good education.”  
1999 White Paper, Excellence in Schools*

Homework is work that is set to be completed outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. There is no arguing that when a school’s homework policy is properly administered, it makes a valuable contribution to children’s learning. Ofsted recognised this fact in 2012 when it changed its framework for “outstanding teaching” to recommend that homework be set and marking carried out frequently to provide pupils with clear guidance on where they are in their learning and how they can improve.

Various studies from Hattie, PISA and others suggest effective homework raises outcomes. The Education Endowment Foundation states, on average, the impact of homework on learning is consistently positive (leading to on average five months additional progress). However, beneath this average there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how homework is set is likely to be very important. Homework enhances pupil learning and improves achievement and develops pupils’ study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work in each curriculum area.

It is important in raising student achievement. Not all homework is done at home; in fact, for some pupils who find it hard to work at home, or for some tasks which may require resources (books, software, equipment) more readily available at school, it is necessary or desirable to carry out the task at school. Homework enhances pupil learning, improves achievement and develops pupils’ study skills and as such is an integral part of the curriculum. It requires careful planning and integration into the scheme of work of each curriculum area.

## Aims

### **Homework enables pupils to:**

- consolidate and extend work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- access resources not available in the classroom.
- develop research skills.
- have an opportunity for independent work.
- show progress and understanding.
- provide feedback in the evaluation of teaching.
- to enhance their study skills e.g. planning, time management and self-discipline.
- to take ownership and responsibility for learning.
- engage parental co-operation and support.
- create channels for home school dialogue.

**Homework can be:**

- Independent learning
- Consolidation of work in class
- Practice - learning by doing
- Completion of coursework assignments
- Research
- Reading
- Interviews
- Drawing
- Using ICT
- Recording

**What should be considered when setting homework?**

- Planned and focused activities are more beneficial than homework which is not linked to class activities or irrelevant to learning outcomes.
- It should not be used as a punishment or penalty for poor performance.
- A variety of tasks with different levels of challenge is likely to be beneficial.
- The quality of homework is more important than the quantity. Pupils should receive feedback on homework which is specific and timely.
- The purpose of homework should be made clear to children e.g. to increase a specific area of knowledge, or fluency in a particular area.

**What is Show My Homework?**

Show My Homework is a simple homework calendar the school will be using to ensure homework is set and communicated with parents across the school. Teachers can use it to set homework quickly and ensure the learners and parents always have the information they need about homework available via the Web, Mobile and Tablet devices. This system replaces the traditional homework planner, and ensures that teachers, parents and students all know what has been set and when it is due.

**How can homework be accessed?**

Homework can be accessed by teachers, students and parents in the following ways:

- Please go to [lymmhighschool.showmyhomework.co.uk](http://lymmhighschool.showmyhomework.co.uk) - There is no login required to see the school homework calendar. You can see homework that is set across the school and then use the filters to find what you are looking for.
- A personalised homework calendar is available for all users including students and parents. Once you login, you can only see your own homework schedule.
- There are iPhone and Android apps available for free for students and parents.
- The Show My Homework service is available and works on all devices using a modern browser such as IE 8+, Safari, Chrome and Firefox.

### Expectations: How much and by whom?

The following has been provided as *guidance* for the amount of time and frequency that homework is set but it is important to remember that it is the *quality* of the work completed rather than the *quantity*. The times provided below are a weekly average and the amount set may vary from week to week.

Please note that the following is a weekly average and the time will vary from week to week

	Subject	Y7	Y8	Y9	Frequency set
KEY STAGE 3	English	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 45 mins	Weekly
	Maths	2x 30 mins	2x 30 mins	2x 45 mins	Weekly
	Science	1x 45 mins	1x 45 mins	1x 45 mins	Weekly
	Geography	1x 30 mins	30 mins	45 mins	Fortnightly
	History	30 mins	30 mins	45 mins	Fortnightly
	R.S.	15 mins	15 mins	20 mins	Fortnightly
	French	45 mins	45 mins	45 mins	Weekly
	Second Language	N/A	1x 45 mins	1x 45 mins	Weekly
	Art	30 mins	30 mins	30 mins	Half termly
	Technology	30 mins	30 mins	30 mins	Half termly
	ICT	1 x 15 mins	1 x 30 mins	1 x 30 mins	Half termly
	Performing Arts	1 x 30 mins	1 x 30 mins	1 x 30 mins	Half termly
<p>As a rule homework will not be set in PE unless revision is required before the assessment period, or if there is a project which requires additional work outside of class, in which case students will be provided with specific details via Show My Homework.            Performing Arts incorporates Music, Drama and Dance.            Homework set half termly will be project based and run alongside the class curriculum.</p> <p>In addition to the work set in class all students in Key Stage 3 are expected to regularly revise and review their notes, seek enrichment opportunities and challenges. They are also expected to read for pleasure for at least 20 minutes a night. In addition to promoting reading for pleasure, students benefit from enhanced fluency and the wider general knowledge that arises from regular reading, thus supporting learning in all aspects of the curriculum. <b>Reading will be monitored by parents and not directly supervised by teachers.</b> Literacy will continue to be promoted throughout the curriculum and reading for pleasure will be supported in all subjects areas and through the DEAR approach (Drop Everything And Read)</p>					

	<p>All students will be provided with details of stretch &amp; challenge and enrichment opportunities from each faculty area, which they can complete without specific direction from the class teacher. We would urge parents to encourage their child to complete these additional activities if homework is completed quickly or easily. There should never be an opportunity for a child to say that they have no homework as these extension activities are available all year round and designed to enhance and develop the curriculum content to its very maximum.</p>			
KEY STAGE 4	<p>Please note that the following is a weekly average and the time will vary from week to week</p>			
		Y10	Y11	Frequency
	English	2 x 60 mins	2 x 60 mins	Weekly
	Maths	2 x 50 mins	2 x 50 mins	Weekly
	Science	3 x 45 mins	3 x 45 mins	Weekly
	<p>Option subjects will have 60 minutes homework per week, per subject as appropriate and dependent upon revision, examination schedule and controlled assessments.</p> <p>In addition to the work set in class all students in Key Stage 4 are expected to read for pleasure for a minimum of 30 minutes a night; this will be monitored by parents and not directly supervised by teachers. Literacy skills will continue to be promoted across the curriculum, as will reading for pleasure.</p> <p>All students will be provided with details of stretch and challenge and enrichment opportunities from each faculty area, which they should complete without specific direction from the class teacher</p>			

#### National Average

Year 7 & 8	45-90 minutes a day
Year 9	60-120 minutes a day
Year 10 & 11	90- 150 minutes a day

## Sixth Form Independent Study / Homework Policy

As a full time student at Lymm High Sixth Form, everyone will be expected to study outside of lessons. This additional study is essential if students are to achieve or exceed their target grade, and will help the preparation for university study.

Homework is set in order to:

- Reinforce and consolidate work covered in lessons
- Encourage independent and reflective learning
- Develop a deeper knowledge and understanding
- Prepare students for future lessons or assessments
- Promote an interest and joy in learning
- Enable teachers in to make a judgement about students' progress and level of attainment.

Homework will be varied in terms of tasks but it will always be relevant to students' courses with vocational courses often constituting on-going work on students' assignments. We recommend that for A level 3 subject (AS, A2, BTEC, Applied qualifications) students should study for a **minimum of five hours per week** outside of lessons and independent study periods. This should include additional note taking and reading over notes.

During periods in which there are examinations or controlled assessments, homework will normally to be to revise, with the major emphasis on completing past exam questions to fully prepare students for external examinations.

Students are expected to work hard outside of lessons and we will work in partnership with our students and their parents to ensure academic success. If students do not do this, we will take steps to support them. Should this be unsuccessful, we will ultimately reconsider the student's place at the Sixth Form. This will involve progress reports being sent home on a half termly basis and parents will be contacted should any concerns arise.

Use the following as a guide to the number of hours you should spend both in and out of lessons.

### AS Students

You will have 20 periods of contact time with staff on your timetable, leaving 10 sessions of independent study. You will be set one hour of homework per lesson per week, which will incorporate independent study tasks and formal assessed pieces of work. This means that typically you will have **5 hours homework/independent study time per week**, per subject and it is up to you to manage this effectively.

### A2 Students

You will have 15 periods of contact time with staff on your timetable, leaving 15 sessions of independent study. You will be set homework every week which will incorporate independent study tasks and formal assessed pieces of work. You will be usually set **7 hours of work per subject per week** and it is up to you to manage this effectively.

## **Responsibilities**

### **The role of the pupil:**

- To listen to homework instructions in class.
- To visit the school homework calendar via the school website.
- To download the Apple or Android app if they have a smart phone to see their homework.
- To ensure that homework is completed and handed in to meet the deadline.
- To attempt all work and give their best.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties.

### **The role of the Form Tutor:**

- To include homework in pupil mentoring where appropriate.
- To see that homework is being set and recorded via the Show My Homework reports.
- To check the students know where to access the school homework.
- To note and respond to any comments received by parents.

### **The role of the Class Teacher:**

- The class teacher controls the direction of homework and the nature of tasks undertaken.
- Ensures that homework is set on Show My Homework for all classes.
- Set homework according to Lymm High School's homework policy.
- Provide the stimulus.
- Give full and comprehensive instructions.
- Set deadlines for completed work and ensure that they are met.
- Mark and return all homework promptly.
- Provide help and support.
- Inform the Head of Faculty or Head of Subject as appropriate, when problems arise.

### **The role of the Inclusion Resource Manager:**

- To provide after school and lunchtime opportunities for independent study.

### **The role of the Head of Faculty/Head of Subject:**

- To seek to enhance the quality of homework set.
- To monitor and evaluate homework policy within their curriculum area.
- To praise accordingly student that consistently do homework and highlight the learners that need support.

### **The role of SLT member responsible for homework:**

- To provide staff, pupils and parents with the necessary homework documentation.
- To develop classroom practice to enhance homework across the school.
- To review on a termly basis the school homework policy.
- To monitor and evaluate the school homework policy.

### **The role of the Parents:**

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. Reinforcing its value through positive feedback will give students the confidence to persevere, work hard and reach high standards of achievement. Parents can assist by:

- Providing a table, chair and a quiet place to work, which is well lit.
- Negotiating with the student when homework is to be done as a student's free time is important too.
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks.
- Ensuring that outside clubs do not hamper a child's quality of work and put a child under undue pressure.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Monitoring the Show My Homework site with regards to the setting and completion of the homework.
- Providing the school with information about any problems through contacting the class teacher directly.

### **Monitoring of Homework through Show My Homework:**

Homework is very much a school-wide topic. Therefore it requires a consistent approach across the school. It must be easy for all stakeholders to have an overview of homework as time is very limited. To ensure that everyone meets the homework guidelines set, we have the following options to monitor homework.

#### **Classroom teachers / form tutors:**

- Using Show My Homework teachers can keep a record of all the homework set daily, weekly, termly and yearly.
- Teachers can keep a record of student submissions to see quickly who has completed or missed homework deadlines.
- Teachers can search for any student they teach or at the school and see the homework the student has been set at any time.
- All teaching staff have access to the school homework reports which are designed to save time and can be exported to Excel.

#### **Head of Faculty/ Head of Subjects:**

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much / little homework has been set in the faculty/department quickly and accurately.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.
- As a Head of Faculty / Head of subject or Director of Learning, see quickly how your cohort is engaging with homework across subjects.
- Deep dive into the quality of homework set by colleagues in your Faculty at any time without having to request for homework samples.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Ensure colleagues in your Faculty save time by encouraging collaboration and using homework already created by the department more effectively.



**Teaching Assistants/ support staff:**

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to see how much / little homework individual learners have been set.
- See very quickly what homework individual learners have been set and be able to share this information quickly and effectively with parent/carers.
- Use Show My Homework to plan relevant support and preparation work required to support the learners more effectively.

**Senior Leaders:**

- Use the homework reports provided by Show My Homework to quickly measure against the expectations outlined for homework.
- Identify learners that are persistently missing deadlines.
- Deep dive into the quality of homework set by colleagues across the school at anytime without having to request for homework samples.
- Use the homework reports to ensure homework is consistently set and the quality is up to the standard and expectations required.
- Use Show My Homework to put in relevant interventions to support learners that are consistently missing deadlines.
- Share weekly homework statistics across the school.
- Reduce homework excuses and parental complaints by providing a consistent message regarding homework and expectations.
- Use Show My Homework to reach and communicate with hard to reach parents.

**Students and Show My Homework:**

Show My Homework makes it easy to for students to see how much homework and the details of homework they have at any given time via:

- The school website (no login required)
- By logging in, the student can see a personalised homework calendar.
- By downloading the iPhone or Android app, students get reminders and push notifications about homework deadlines.
- By setting up their email, students can also receive email notifications and reminders.
- Show My Homework also works on all modern browsers and devices and also with a 3G connection ensuring homework is accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Students have the option to print homework at school should the resources not be available at home.
- Students can look at the homework calendar to plan their time better and avoid missing deadlines.

### **Parents and Show My Homework:**

- Show My Homework makes it easy to for parents to monitor school homework via:
  - The school website (no login required)
  - By logging in, the parent/carer can see a personalised homework calendar.
  - By downloading the iPhone or Android app, parents get reminders and push notifications about homework deadlines for the learner.
  - By setting up their email, parents can also receive email notifications and reminders. Show My Homework also works on all modern browsers and devices and also with a 3G connection ensuring homework is accessible anytime, anywhere.
- Parents can also scroll back historically to see what homework has been set.

### **Evaluation / Reviews:**

- Where issues with regard to the setting of homework are revealed as part of the monitoring process, SLT will need to have discussions with the relevant staff and HOF, provide support where necessary to remedy the situation and instigate further monitoring if needed to check that the intervention has been effective.
- Homework reports will be checked on a weekly basis. These same reports are available for all staff to see and view anytime by clicking the homework reports button once logged in.
- Homework statistics and parental feedback / surveys should be carried out once every term. It is key the results from these surveys are shared and the findings that stems from them should be actioned.

### **Homework Sanctions**

#### **Y7 – 11 Students**

Class teachers should always follow up any issue with incomplete homework, seeking further understanding as to why this has not been done from the student. Where necessary additional support for the class teacher can be sought from the Head of Subject or Head of Faculty

## Sixth Form Students

Where homework or lack of effort becomes an issue the following action will be taken for Sixth Form students -

Stage	Issue	Staff Action	Student consequences
Warning	Student fails to submit homework	Log on SIMS grade 3 with a comment 6 <sup>th</sup> form Team will monitor grade 3's weekly	Student required to hand work in when staff requested
1	Student fails to complete homework, second occasion (or raised in more than one subject)	Log on SIMS grade 3 with a comment 6 <sup>th</sup> form Team will monitor grade 3's weekly	Required to stay in during time requested by staff (can be lunchtime or after school) to complete missed work
2	Homework is persistently handed in late	Log on SIMS grade 3 with a comment Parents contacted – telephone call from subject teacher HOF informed	Required to stay in during lunchtime to complete missed work and have warning from HOF, parents informed by Subject teacher / HOF
3	Student fails to complete homework, third occasion (or raised persistently in more than one subject)	Student referred to sixth form team, student allocated supervised study periods on timetable to catch up missed work, parents informed. 6 <sup>th</sup> form Team will monitor grade 3's weekly	Lose study periods and have to be supervised during study times in N106, unable to leave school before 3.10pm
4	Student fails to complete homework, fourth occasion (or raised persistently in more than one subject)	Parents invited in to meet with Head of Year, placed on contract to be reviewed weekly.	Student continues to lose all study periods and is allocated study periods in N106, cannot leave before 3.10pm and is monitored on a contract by HOY
5	Continued persistent lack of homework / effort	Interview with Head of Sixth Form and parents and student	Failure to meet expectations will ultimately put the student's position in the Sixth Form at risk.

## **Incentives**

High quality homework and a good ethos should be sensitively praised in class and the BFL grade should reflect this.

Where appropriate, homework should be included in display work. For example, Subjects may wish to exhibit work for 'Homework of the week.' Credits and rewards for achievement and sustained effort may be rewarded for good homework. For exceptional pieces of homework, a Faculty letter or postcard may be sent home. Students may also be considered for Star of the Week, where appropriate.

## **Accessibility & Translation:**

The Show My Homework product is dedicated to making the website accessible to people with disabilities. It is developed and maintained using World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) guidelines. Building on W3C guidelines Show My Homework has implemented a number of accessibility features, including:

- Allowing teachers to enable a high contrast version of the website
- Allowing teachers to disable the quiz timer

Homework can also be translated into a number of languages using Google Translate technology. This is not perfect, however will support students and parents.

## **Homework CPD:**

CPD is available throughout the year on how to use Show My Homework. Please contact [help@showmyhomework.co.uk](mailto:help@showmyhomework.co.uk) to schedule a tutorial.