



Poltair School Homework Policy



Supported by Show My Homework

Overview

Poltair School is committed to offering the best learning opportunities to students inside and outside of the classroom. When homework is effectively planned, set and completed 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.

There is a wealth of educational evidence to prove that homework has a positive impact on learning and can lead to on an average of five months additional progress when it is completed correctly. We want the very best for our learners at Poltair School, therefore this policy outlines the expectations of all stakeholders linked to homework so that our students can achieve their very best.

Further benefits of homework are;

- ✓ The consolidation and extension work covered in class or prepare for new learning activities.
- ✓ Accessing resources not available in the classroom.
- ✓ Development of research skills.
- ✓ An opportunity to further development the core skills of literacy and numeracy
- ✓ An opportunity to evaluate progress made in learning and to feed this back to students
- ✓ Development of essential life skills such as planning, time management, self-discipline, resilience and determination.
- ✓ Creation of ownership and responsibility for learning.
- ✓ Engagement of parental co-operation and support.

What is homework?

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher. Not all homework will be completed 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. If students do not have the resources required to complete the homework such as paper, scissors, glue, this can be provided for them at school, with a quiet and safe space to complete the independent work. We offer homework support on our Poltair Plus programme which is regularly updated on our website.

Homework can include many different activities.

To ensure that the students at Poltair School take on a wealth of learning experiences homework can vary between subjects and will take on many different forms. For example homework can include the consolidation of work in class, practice - learning by doing for example spellings, keywords or reading, the completion of assignments, exam paper practice, research, reading for pleasure, writing a report, collecting evidence, creating interviews, drawing, using ICT, creating models or recording. These examples are not extensive and often, students will get a choice in how they can complete their work.

How is homework set and how often should it be completed?

Homework will always be set by the classroom teacher as part of the planned lesson and in relation to the subject homework allocations (Appendix A). This will then give staff enough time to explain the task and the expectations of the work and set a hand in date. Students should always write an outline of this in their school planner. The classroom teacher will also upload this information onto www.ShowMyHomework.co.uk so students, parents and carers can access the homework in more detail at home. The frequency of homework will vary between subjects and year groups and can be found on the Subject Homework Allocations (Appendix A).

Roles and responsibilities of setting, marking and giving feedback on homework.

To ensure that all stakeholders make the very most of the homework that is planned and set for students there are key responsibilities each stakeholder should follow to ensure maximum progress for the student.

The role of the student when being set homework:

- ✓ Ensure the homework outline and deadline is written into the planner.
- ✓ Visit the school homework calendar via the school website when completing the homework for success criteria and expectations.
- ✓ Complete homework and hand it in on time to the classroom teacher.
- ✓ Attempt all work to the best of their ability and refer to the 'Good Homework Guide' (Appendix B) in relation to homework quality.
- ✓ To inform the class teacher of any difficulties before the deadline so any questions or support can be given in good time, this can be carried out in person or via email.

The role of the classroom teacher in supporting students:

- ✓ A variety of tasks will be set over the year with different levels of challenge.
- ✓ Ensure that purposeful and achievable tasks are set to promote independent learning and valuable learning skills.
- ✓ Differentiate homework tasks based on special educational needs of a student and their academic ability so all students can be successful.
- ✓ Ensure that ALL tasks are uploaded onto www.showmyhomework.co.uk on the day that it is set.
- ✓ Respond to any comments written in diaries by parents.
- ✓ Set homework according to the timetable.
- ✓ Give full and comprehensive instructions to students during the lesson to ensure that all students understand the content and skills involved in the tasks.
- ✓ Mark and return all homework at the same timescale that it was completed. For example if homework is set fortnightly the classroom teacher has a fortnight to return marked work to students.
- ✓ Provide help and support when requested and guide students to Poltair Plus support sessions.
- ✓ Provide rewards for the completion of good quality homework using the VIVO rewards system.
- ✓ To give consistent sanctions in line with the school behaviour and rewards policy if homework is handed in late or below the expected quality for that student.

The role of the tutor in supporting students:

- ✓ Monitor and support the use of SMHW of the tutor group to support with deadlines and organise workload, this includes liaison with parents/carers, provision of PINS and opportunities to check the website during tutor time
- ✓ To liaise with teaching staff with tutees if there is an under setting or over setting of homework, to ensure a healthy work/life balance.
- ✓ To encourage students with limited or no access to required technology to make alternative arrangements in school.

The role of school leaders in supporting students (including middle leaders and the senior leadership team):

- ✓ Ensure the quality and consistency of homework is in line with the agreed Subject Homework Allocations (Appendix A)
- ✓ Monitor the planning, setting and quality of homework delivered by classroom teachers.
- ✓ Provide support for classroom teachers in order to set good quality homework.
- ✓ Provide support for students and parents/carers in the absence of a class room teacher.
- ✓ Provide opportunities for classroom teachers to share best practice of homework tasks.
- ✓ Monitor usage of Show My Homework in relation to the frequency and quality of homework set.
- ✓ Ensure all classroom teachers are differentiating homework in accordance with students special educational needs.

The role of the parents in supporting students:

The role of the parent is crucial if a child is to gain success from homework. To reinforce 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 flat surface, chair and a quiet place to work.

- ✓ Creating a homework timetable or routine with the student when homework is to be completed as a student's free play is important too.
- ✓ Checking the time spent on individual tasks and encouraging/praising efforts.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Signing the homework planner each week.
- ✓ Providing the school with information about any problems through the student planner or by contacting the school directly.
- ✓ Supporting all aspects of the homework policy.
- ✓ Encouraging students to look at set tasks early so they can return to their class teacher if they have queries before the work is due

Accessing resources

The school library will be open and available for students to use specifically for homework every Tuesday and Thursday from 3.00pm to 4.30pm. Mrs Hancock will be available to support with homework if needed and access to the computers will be granted to students once they have signed in.

The monitoring of homework.

Homework is very much a school-wide topic. Therefore it requires a consistent approach. It must be easy for all stakeholders to have an overview of homework. To ensure that everyone meets the homework guidelines set, it is a regular focus of staff and school development.

Homework will be monitored and acted upon during:

- ✓ Faculty development meetings
- ✓ Middle leader meetings
- ✓ Senior leadership team meetings
- ✓ Parental forums
- ✓ Student forums
- ✓ CPD sessions for staff including training of using Show My Homework

What is Show My Homework?

Show My Homework is a simple online homework calendar that the school, students and parents can use to ensure homework is set, completed and monitored. 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.



How can homework be accessed?

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

- Using a log in allows a personalised homework calendar to be viewed which is quicker and easier and locate homework set and deadlines. It is recommended that students, parents and carers always log in to the show my homework website for convenience and clarity. Students can use the features of the website to manage their workload, identifying which tasks are complete, incomplete and messaging their teachers.
- 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.
- It is possible to view set tasks without a login: go to www.poltairschool.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 information specific to a subject or year group. However it is not possible to complete online quizzes without logging in.

Students:

- 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:

- 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 to check for frequency and quality.

Accessibility & Translation:

The Show My Homework product is dedicated to making this 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.

Useful contacts for help and advice

As a school, we are always available to give help and advice to any student, parent or carer at any point throughout the year related to homework as we always want to very best for every student. If any questions surrounding homework arise, please do not hesitate to contact the school, this can be done via the student planner, a phone call, a letter or an email.

Please use the following contact list below as guidance with any questions or queries that may arise linked to homework. As a school we will ensure they are dealt with swiftly to resolve and concerns.

Questions related to a specific piece of homework

Specific questions about a specific piece of work should always go to the classroom teacher that set the homework in the first instance. They can be contacted on the school phone number or via email. Staff email addresses are always their initial followed by their surname with the suffix @poltair.cornwall.sch.uk.

Questions related to Show My Homework or accessibility onto the website

Please email or phone Mr Paul Marshall (pmarshall@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk) to answer any technical questions, Mr Marshall is also present at parent's evenings and for parent forums to offer support and guidance.

Questions related to the homework timetable

Please email or phone Miss Kirsty Hughes (khughes@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk) who oversees the planning, setting and monitoring of homework on a whole school scale.

Policy written: September 2016

Review date: September 2017

Appendix A
Poltair School Subject Homework Allocations 2016-2017

These figures are based on a 2 week timetable

Subject area	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
English	60	60	90	120	120
Maths	60	60	90	120	120
Science	60	60	90	120	120
ICT	Termly practical task and feedback/reflection task.	Termly practical task and feedback/reflection task.	60	60	60
Geography	30	30	60	60	60
History	30	30	60	60	60
French	30	30	60	60	60
BTEC Sport	~	~	60	60	60
Music	~	~	60	60	60
Health and social care	~	~	60	60	60
Business studies	~	~	~	60	60
Performing arts	~	~	60	60	60
Morals and Ethics	30	30	30	~	~
Design Tech – Food	Half termly project 30	Half termly project 30	90	90	90
Design Tech - Design	Half termly project 30	Half termly project 30	90	90	90
Art	60	60	90	120	120
Travel and tourism	~	~	~	60	60
Life issues and morality	~	~	60	60	~