

# HOMEWORK

## 1. Policy Statement

*At BCS we believe that homework is an important part of the learning process. It reinforces and consolidates the work pupils have been doing in class, encourages a good work ethic and is one way that parents can become involved in their child's education. Homework promotes independent learning and thinking and develops pupils' organizational and time management skills. Completion of homework is the responsibility of the pupil but parental support is encouraged.*

*BCS is fully committed to ensuring that the application of this Homework policy is non-discriminatory in line with the UK Equality Act (2010). Further details are available in the school's Equal Opportunity Policy document.*

*This policy is applicable to all pupils in both senior and prep schools, including those in boarding and EYFS and BCS seeks to implement this policy through adherence to the procedures set out in the rest of this document.*

*In line with our Provision of Information policy, this document is available to all interested parties on our website and on request from the Senior school and Prep school offices and should be read in conjunction with the following documents: Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Marking, Assessment, Recording and Reporting.*

*This document is reviewed annually by the Vice Principal and Key Stage Coordinators (Prep) or as events or legislation change requires. The next scheduled date for review is September 2012.*

## 2. Key Personnel

Homework in the Senior School is coordinated by the Vice Principal, Peter Harris

Homework in the Prep school is coordinated by the Key Stage Coordinators: Angela Curran Smith, Key Stage 2; Laura Plant, Key Stage 1 and Charlotte Hayes, EYFS

### **3. Procedures**

#### **A. Senior School**

The homework timetable is produced on an annual basis. It is organised to ensure that the total amount of time that pupils spend on homework increases steadily as they progress through the school. It is available as a separate document.

The following shows the recommended time that should be spent on homework per day

- Years 7 and 8: 30 minutes homework per subject per day
- Year 9: 30-45 minutes homework per subject per day
- Years 10 and 11: 45-60 minutes homework per subject per day
- Sixth form should have upwards of 5 hours per subject per week

Pupils may do their homework during supervised 'Prep' from 4.15-5pm, Monday to Friday, and in addition to this boarders in Years 7-10 will do supervised Prep from 6.30-8.00pm.

Sixth form pupils use the study rooms in the Sixth Form Centre to do homework during study lessons.

#### **Nature of homework**

Homework is well planned and supports a given learning objective. It should be appropriately differentiated to match the ability of the pupils, providing opportunity for challenge and extension. Whilst homework can take a variety of forms, written work is ideally set and marked at least once a fortnight. Written homework in Art, ICT and Music is less frequent in the earlier years, the onus being on developing practical and research skills.

Detailed homework procedures are set out in departmental handbooks

#### **Deadlines**

Deadlines for completion of homework must be realistic, with appropriate sanctions for pupils who fail to meet these deadlines. Pupils' time management is an issue that is addressed in the first instance by academic staff, with support from the tutor and pastoral staff as necessary.

#### **Grading**

Homework is graded for effort using the grades 1-4 awarded according to the school's Effort Grade Criteria (See Marking Policy). A summary of the grade criteria is attached to each new exercise book, so that pupils and parents are aware of what the effort grades mean. A similar subject specific sheet indicating the National Curriculum Level descriptors for KS3 is also attached to each new exercise book.

## **Monitoring of Homework**

To ensure that parents/boarding staff are fully aware of the homework tasks, they are asked to read and sign the homework planner weekly for pupils in Years 7-11. The planner is also signed weekly by the Form Tutor who is responsible for monitoring the overall amount of homework being set.

### **B. Prep School**

Homework builds on work done in the classroom. It enables the class teacher and the parents to confirm that the child has an understanding of a subject and helps to instill and develop a sense of discipline about work at home. If a teacher sets homework, there is an expectation that this will be completed by the set date. Most homework set will focus on the core subjects - English, Mathematics and Science, with History and Geography set for Years 4-6. Occasional projects and tasks will be set to support other subjects or topic work for younger pupils.

The Homework Timetable is available on request

Reception children will be given tasks to undertake as and when appropriate. This will include practice in reading, learning sounds and working on flashcards

The following shows the recommended time that should be spent on homework per day

Year 2: 15 to 20 minutes

Year 3: 15 to 20 minutes

Year 4: 20 to 30 minutes

Year 5: 30 to 45 minutes

Year 6: 40 to 60 minutes

### **The role of parents**

Parents are expected to support and encourage their child by allowing time and providing a quiet home environment in which homework can be done. The class teacher will, as far as possible, ensure that the child is completely clear on what they are expected to do at home. Children in Years 3 to 6 are able to communicate this to parents via the homework planner in which they record each day's homework. To ensure that parents are fully aware of the homework tasks, they are asked to read and sign the homework planner weekly. Homework should never become a stressful or frustrating situation. If problems arise, homework should be left and the issue communicated to the class teacher via the homework planner. Parents of children in Years Reception, 1 and 2 should use their child's reading comment book/record to monitor and comment on how their child is progressing in reading. In this way staff, children and parents are fully informed.

Children benefit enormously from being able to discuss what they have done with their parents. This is not to suggest that the parent should spend time altering or correcting a child's work but rather discuss it and suggest how it might be done differently or improved. Constructive comments enable children to develop a better understanding of the work and reinforce what is taught in school.

Above all other subjects, reading is a crucial aspect of schoolwork and needs to be encouraged at all times. A child's written skills reflect their reading ability. A child who reads widely and with enthusiasm is often able to translate this into written work. It is most important, therefore, for parents to try to hear their child read as often as possible. Younger children need to be heard on a regular basis, older children may however be expected to read independently and silently to themselves. Children of all ages enjoy being read to and this should not stop once they become independent readers.

It is of great benefit to children of any age to discuss issues, news and current affairs. Talking with children encourages them to take an interest in the world around them; to develop opinions and to widen their experiences.

Children can stay at school on any or every afternoon to do their homework in 'prep'. Prep is supervised by staff and children are given support where appropriate but encouraged to work independently too.

It is hoped that parents will support the school in encouraging their child to develop a responsible attitude to their homework.