



*Burscough Priory  
Science College*

**PERSONAL LEARNING AND  
HOMEWORK POLICY**

DRAFT

## **Policy: Personal Learning and Homework**

*We use high quality, sharply focused and engaging home learning activities to enable our young people to develop their thirst for learning, become outstanding independent learners' and to significantly increase their levels of achievement*

### **Rationale**

Homework is seen as one of the principle ways in which student achievement can be raised when it is clearly aligned, complements and enriches the curriculum. It enhances a student's personal learning skills so that they develop life-long study skills and habits. Burscough Priory creates an exciting and learning-focused ethos for the students in order for them to master their learning and be fully functional members of society.

### **Aims**

Homework at Burscough Priory enables students and the school to:

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

### **Ofsted Outstanding**

"Appropriate and regular homework contributes very well to pupils' learning".

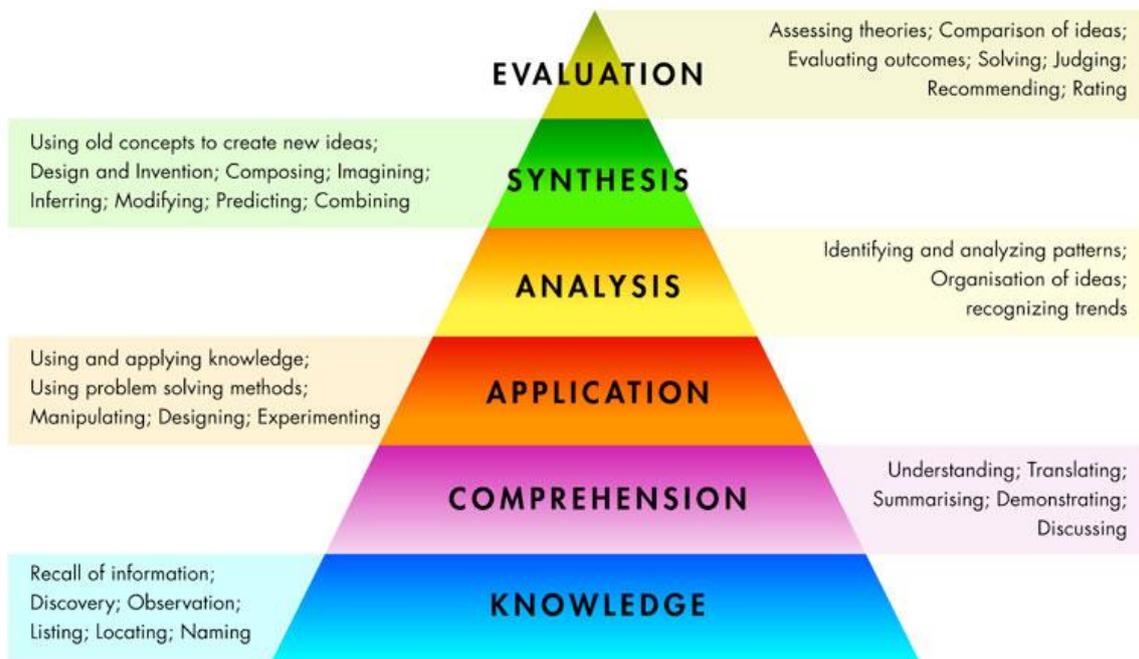
In addition...

- Drawing on excellent subject knowledge, teachers plan astutely and set challenging tasks based on systematic, accurate assessment of pupils prior knowledge, skills and understanding.
- Teaching promotes high levels of resilience, confidence and independence when they tackle challenging activities.

### **Homework tasks**

Across a unit or mid-term plan, the homework activities that are set should cover:

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Examples of activities could include:

- Sam Learning or other approved educational packages
- Consolidation and mastery of class work
- Practice - learning by doing
- Interviews
- Using ICT; preparing Power Points, structured independent research
- Recordings
- Project work – open ended tasks over a few weeks
- Literacy based activities
- Reading- for the subject and for pleasure
- Drafting and redrafting work
- Completing marking and feedback updates
- Analysing text,
- Creating, designing, composing, modifying
- Comparing ideas
- Evaluating work or ideas

## Expectations

- All students will use the school diary to record all homework, including revision activities.
- Record it explicitly in the diary, “Summarise the survival of the fittest theory on the sheet” instead of “Do sheet”.
- It should be set according to the timetable.
- In years 7, 8 and 9 should last at least 30 minutes per subject.
- In years 10 and 11 should last at least 40 minutes per subject.
- In Year 7, 8 and 9, the minimum expectation is that English, Maths, Science, Computing and ICT, Spanish and DT will be set weekly. Geography, History, RE, Music, Art, PE and Drama will be set according to the timetable:

Key Stage 3	7.9.15	14.9.15	21.9.15	28.9.15	5.10.15	12.10.15	19.10.15
English Language	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maths	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spanish	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Computing & ICT	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Design Technology	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Geography, History, RE	Geography	History	RE	Geography	History	RE	Geog
Art, Music, Drama, PE	PE	Art	Music	Drama	PE	Art	Music

- For year 10 and 11 all subjects will set homework every week according to the timetable.

Key Stage 4	7.9.15	14.9.15	21.9.15	28.9.15	5.10.15	12.10.15	19.10.15
English Language	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
English Literature	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maths	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Science/Biology & Chemistry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Functional Skills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bacc Option: Gg, Hi, Sp, CS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Open Option: Gg, Hi, CS, CD, PD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Option X	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Option Y	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Option Z	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- Make it clear which is homework in class books and folders. Identify with a 'H' or 'Homework' title.
- Project based, consider planning a mid-progress check.
- Homework will be marked according to the ACE Feedback Policy and returned promptly
- Plan the opportunity to reflect, update and correct work as a part of a lesson's learning activities.
- Follow up outstanding homework and non-completion using the 'Developing Outstanding Behaviour for Learning' protocols below.

### Developing Outstanding Behaviour for Learning

High quality and outstanding pieces of homework should be celebrated in the classroom and for possible praise in Celebration Assemblies. Where appropriate it should be displayed on notice boards in line with the Display for Learning Policy. Attendance at the Homework Club should be rewarded as a positive learning behaviour.

If homework is not completed, teachers should initially support the student and ensure that the tasks meet the students' needs. If sanctions need to be used the following should apply:

1. Subject teacher – discussion with student, detention and inform parent through the homework diary. If needed refer to the HoD.
2. Head of Department – discussion with the student, detention and inform with parents.
3. Learning Tutors – through weekly checking and signing of the homework diary, identify any students with homework issues across several curriculum areas and refer to the Directors of Learning
4. Directors of Learning – discuss the issues with the student and invite parents into school. Referral into the ECM for help and support. Refer to SLT if needed.
5. ECM staff – offer homework clubs and support for students who may need extra help.

## Quality Assurance

*All QA activities will use the common and standardised prompts*

<b>Classroom Teacher &amp; Teaching Assistants</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teachers will set high quality, challenging learning activities as agreed by the homework timetable</li> <li>Teachers and Teaching Assistants will check that homework is accurately recorded in the homework diary</li> <li>Teachers will follow the 'Developing Outstanding Behaviour for Learning' in response to homework activities</li> </ul>
<b>Learning Tutors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly signing of the diary and checking that the work set and recorded. Inform the HoD and DoL</li> </ul>
<b>Student</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students are responsible for accurate recording of homework</li> <li>Completion of learning activities to the highest possible standards</li> </ul>
<b>Parent</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents will be encouraged to take an active role in checking the standard of homework but also to praise, reward and give feedback directly on their child's work. For example a parent comment could be written into their child's work book after the teacher has marked it and identified exceptional effort or attainment.</li> <li>Parents should contact the school to discuss homework</li> </ul>
<b>Head of Subject</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sampling as planned within the department and as a minimum at the times highlighted on the calendar.</li> <li>Feedback according to the book look prompts, copies held.</li> </ul>
<b>Directors of Learning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the student sample across the range of gender and ability</li> <li>Sample other homework diaries according to the quality cycle dates</li> <li>Highlight strengths and areas for improvement to HoD and SLT</li> <li>Keep a sample of homework diaries for submission if requested by SLT</li> </ul>
<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line Meetings (HoD and DoL) – discussion about the evidence for homework set and the impact on learners</li> <li>Sampling of homework diaries during lesson and tutor learning visits</li> </ul>

## Next Steps

1. Engage parents in the marking and feedback process