



The Axe Valley Community College

Homework Policy

**Adopted by the Governing body on 22 February 2017.
The document will be reviewed on an annual basis.**

Rationale

Homework which is well planned, purposeful and challenging will have a positive effect on students' learning.

The purpose of homework

- ❑ To either prepare for, reinforce, revise, review or extend work done in class.
- ❑ Encourage independent learning and develop the skills and attitudes needed for lifelong learning.
- ❑ Create a link between home and school.

At Axe Valley we have a high expectation regarding the standard of homework set and the quality of work done by individuals at home. We value the work and the effort students put into their work.

Learning at home is a valuable part of a good education, and at Axe Valley, homework is an integral part of the curriculum.

The tasks which are set for homework should be:

- ❑ Appropriate to the needs of individuals.
- ❑ Purposeful and planned, and should be relevant to both the students and their progress.
- ❑ Manageable, with regard to time and content.

For students:

- ❑ You will be set homework regularly.
- ❑ Your homework should be recorded in your planner.
- ❑ You need to be clear about what you need to do.
- ❑ You must spend sufficient time on your work and plan your time effectively.
- ❑ You may be encouraged to use the Homework Club.
- ❑ Failure to complete homework will be seen as a cause for concern and will be followed up by teachers, subject leaders and year leaders. Sanctions for failure to complete homework may include contacting parents, setting detentions or providing support in the form of additional tuition at lunchtime or after school.

For teachers:

- ❑ Departments will discuss homework issues and decide on which type of homework best suits their curriculum area.
- ❑ Homework should be set regularly, according to the agreed timescales.
- ❑ Teachers should encourage reading for pleasure.
- ❑ Homework will be shared with students during the lesson (preferably near the start of the lesson). Teachers should give time for students to ask any questions regarding their homework. Students should be given time to record their homework.
- ❑ Homework should be marked according to agreed marking policy; this may be self or peer assessed if appropriate.

- ❑ Homework set will vary according to curriculum area, but all homework should be purposeful and planned.
- ❑ With the growth of internet research facilities, where appropriate, each department will provide students with a list of useful websites.

For parents and carers

Parents and carers have an important role in the effectiveness of homework to encourage, give assistance where appropriate and monitor their child's work.

- ❑ Please discuss your child's homework assignments with them on a regular basis.
- ❑ Please encourage your child to read for pleasure.
- ❑ Check that your child is recording their homework in their planner every week.
- ❑ Try to provide an appropriate place and time to complete homework away from distractions.

Typical Homework by Subject and Key Stage

Subject area	KS3 (7-8)	KS4 (9-11)	KS5 (12-13)
Maths, English & Science	30 minutes per week	1 hour per week	4 hours per option subject per week
EBacc subjects: Geography, History & MFL	2 x 1 hour tasks per half term	1 hour per fortnight per option subject	4 hours per option subject per week
All other subjects	Flexible – homework tasks to be set when it is appropriate to do so.	1 hour per fortnight per option subject	4 hours per option subject per week
		RS: 1 hour per half term	

- ❑ Any problems regarding homework should be passed on to the relevant Subject Leader/Year Leader.
- ❑ Subject Leaders are responsible for ensuring that appropriate homework is being set by the team and is included into the scheme of learning.

Guidelines on types of homework

- ❑ Homework tasks should either help prepare students for, or enhance and extend classwork. Giving students a choice of homework tasks to complete from a menu is desirable especially for non-exam classes.
- ❑ Tasks may include:
 - Completion of exercises
 - Reading
 - Making notes from other sources
 - Preparing a presentation or report
 - Extended essays, over a number of weeks

- Redrafting work
- Guided research
- Directed learning/revision for tests
- Tests/ practice exam questions
- Practical activities, such as making a model, learning lines or practising a piece

Assessment of homework

A variety of methods can be used:

- Self-assessment
- Peer assessment
- Teacher assessment

Assessment and feedback should be as immediate as possible to provide information and to motivate students. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised.

Homework Club

- Students will be able to use school facilities during lunchtimes or at the end of the day after lesson 5 when available.

Time

This is a guide to the amount of time students should spend on homework

KS3 (7-8)	3-4 hours a week + private reading
KS4 (9-11)	6-7 hours a week + private reading
KS5	12+ hours a week; but amount depends on the students' individual programme.

In Years 7 and 8: Teachers will generally allow a week for the completion of homework. Some curriculum areas will set research projects or significant tasks which may take place over a longer period of time.

In Years 9, 10 and 11: This is the minimum which is expected of students in order to be successful at GCSE. For some curriculum areas this time may increase to be able to cover coursework requirements.

In the Sixth Form: It is expected that students will do a minimum of 4 hours per subject per week. This is likely to include preparatory reading for the next section of the course, time to review the week's learning and create revision materials as an ongoing weekly activity.