

Saltley Academy
Draft Homework Policy

Overview

Saltley Academy 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. Well organised homework can play a vital role in raising standards of achievement and developing successful lifelong learning. It is an essential part of the curriculum, planned and prepared alongside all schemes of work. Homework is work that is set to be completed outside of the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study and therefore contributes to the development of the Outstanding Learning Qualities. As a Rights Respecting School, this policy contributes to the achievement of the goals of education (Article 29).

Homework aims to:

- Develop independent learning and research skills
- Consolidate and extend learning covered in lessons
- Prepare pupils for new topics and future learning
- Develop research skills in using the library and other online/offline resources
- Show progress and understanding
- Provide feedback and assessment from the teacher
- Engage parental co-operation and support
- Create channels for home school dialogue

Homework tasks and frequency:

Homework is set weekly in English, Maths and Science and at least once a fortnight in other subjects. The exceptions are the Arts and if an extended homework task (e.g. a project) is set over a longer period of time (with a maximum of 3 weeks duration). Homework tasks should represent a suitable level of challenge in relation to the subject lessons. Students will experience a range of learning tasks matched to schemes of work. It is important that students experience a variety of homework tasks to develop them as independent learners. These may include vocabulary tasks, consolidation exercises, practice, preparation, research, independent projects, revision, memorising tasks and tackling exam questions. This will include tasks such as researching and preparing for a new topic, often referred to as 'pre-learning' or 'flipped learning'.

Homework will always be set by the classroom teacher as part of the planned lesson. This will then give staff enough time to explain the task and the expectations of the work and set a hand in date. Homework should be set at the beginning of the week (where possible), thereby allowing students the opportunity to organise their own homework completion schedule. Students should always make a note of their homework details, ideally in the back of their subject exercise books (if applicable). The classroom teacher will also upload this information onto www.ShowMyHomework.co.uk (SMHW) so students, parents and carers can access the homework in more detail at home.

Homework can include many different activities.

To ensure that the students at Saltley Academy 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.

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 and responsibilities of the student when being set homework:

- Ensure they are aware of what homework tasks have been set as well as their completion deadlines.
- If a student is absent at the time of the homework being set, it is the student's responsibility to ensure any missed classwork/homework is completed within a reasonable timeframe (agreed with the teacher).
- Use Show My Homework to check homework requirements and completion deadlines.
- Complete homework and hand it in on time to the classroom teacher (or submit it electronically), noting online that the work is complete.
- Attempt all work to the best of their ability.
- To inform the class teacher of any difficulties before the deadline so any questions or support can be given in good time.

The role and responsibilities of the classroom teacher in supporting students:

- A variety of tasks will be set over the year with different levels of challenge.
- Set Homework tasks which represent a suitable level of challenge in relation to the subject lessons
- Ensure that purposeful and achievable tasks are set to promote independent learning and other outstanding learning qualities.
- 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.
- 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 within a reasonable timescale.
- Provide rewards for the completion of good quality homework as per the Behaviour for Learning Policy.
- 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. This could include attending a specific 'homework club' detention or a whole school detention. Repeated failure to complete

homework of expected standards or by the set deadline could also result in an extended SLT detention.

- To keep parents and students informed on quality of homework submitted via the feedback function on 'SMHW.'

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. Allow opportunities to check the website during tutor time if appropriate.
- To provide advice to the tutees with regards to any problems or issues regarding homework set.
- To encourage students with limited or no access to required technology to make alternative arrangements in school such as use of the LRC, Homework Club or computer facilities as appropriate.

The role of school leaders in supporting students (including Wider Leadership and Senior Leadership teams):

- 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 classroom 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 according with students' special educational needs.
- Review the impact of homework on both subject learning and progress and the development of outstanding learning qualities.

The role of the parents/carers 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 comfortable, quiet place to work.
- Creating a homework timetable or routine with the student when homework is to be completed
- Checking the time spent on individual tasks and encouraging/praising efforts.
- Checking presentation and content of all homework being returned to school.
- Providing the school with information about any problems 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.
- Referring to 'Show My Homework' to monitor the setting and completion of homework and contact the Academy with any concerns.

Accessing resources

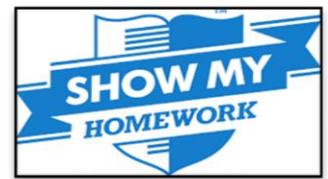
The school library LRC (Learning Resource Centre) will be open and available for students to use on most weekday afternoons. A member of staff will be available to support with homework if needed and access to the computers will be granted to students once they have signed in.

The monitoring of homework

Homework is very much a whole school priority. 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 for staff and school development.

Homework will be monitored and discussed during:

- Departmental meetings
- Wider leadership meetings
- Senior leadership team meetings
- Student Council meetings
- All student and other stakeholder reviews
- Subject reviews
- CPD sessions for staff including training of using Show My Homework
- Parents' evenings



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 Internet Explorer, Safari, Chrome and Firefox.
- It is possible to view set tasks without a login: go to <https://saltley.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar> 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 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 mobile 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 for parents to monitor school homework via: on 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/786 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.

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 (via students).

Questions related to Show My Homework or accessibility onto the website

Please email or phone Mr G Ahmed (staffgah@saltley.bham.sch.uk) to answer any technical questions,.

Policy written: June 2018

Review date: