



Home Learning Policy

Aim:

To provide a framework for the effective setting and completion of home learning as an integral part of the learning process at MSF.

Rationale:

Home learning is attributed to the time students spend outside of school in assigned learning activities. Home learning can be a powerful learning tool, which if used effectively can extend the range and depth of student knowledge and understanding, and at the same time develop independent learning and self motivation. Effective home learning needs to be relevant, fit for purpose and accessible to all students.

Effective Home learning:

- Encourages students to develop their skills, confidence and motivation needed for independent learning
- Extends School learning
- Engages parents and carers in students' learning and informs them about the work students are doing
- Manages particular learning demands
- Encourages and develops revision for examination
- Leaves more time available in lessons for activities for which the teacher is essential
- Gives students the opportunity to prepare for future lessons

Roles and Responsibilities - Staff:

- Teachers should ensure that the home learning task has a clear purpose, is challenging and is consolidating classroom learning. In addition it should help students develop their learning skills.
- Guide-lines should be given as to the approximate amount of time to be spent on a home learning task. Students should not be overburdened.
At KS3 students should be aiming for around 20 minutes per subject area
At KS4 students should be aiming for around 25-40 minutes per subject
(KS4 students additionally receive a GCSE coursework programme)
- Students' written work should be collected and assessed on a regular basis (at least within 3 weeks of completion). Teachers' comments, written or oral should be constructive and designed to support student learning (as per the marking policy).
- Subject teachers provide differentiated tasks for pupils of different abilities, where appropriate.
- Home learning tasks should be given every week to all classes - refer to the whole school KS3 and KS4 timetables for clear guidance on days students complete tasks for specific subjects).
- Clear explanations regarding the nature of the home learning task should be given and ideally written on the board, and time should be provided to write this information in the student planner.



- No student should be disadvantaged in the use of ICT at home.
- Ensure good home learning is acknowledged and rewarded in the same way as good practice in lessons.
- Ensure underachievement in home learning is spotted early and addressed.
- Subject areas should plan a range of tasks/activities appropriate for homework as an integral part of the scheme of work.
- SLT to monitor the effectiveness of home learning as part of the Internal Self Review process.

Roles and Responsibilities - Students:

- Home learning should be done in an environment suitable for study.
- Every pupil receives a home learning timetable setting out clearly the subjects involved on each day of the week.
- Students will be given home learning every week day and it is the students' responsibility to find adequate time for this.
- Details of home learning tasks should be noted in the Planner, including the day/date for when it is required and when it is going to be completed.
- The student Planner should be taken home each evening and consulted before starting homework. The timetable should help in keeping organised.
- All home learning must be completed for the day required. Students should seek help from subject staff if necessary, in advance of a deadline.
- Home learning tasks missed due to absence should always be completed (students should politely negotiate a suitable deadline extension time with the subject teacher).
- Students should take pride in the quality and presentation of their home learning. It should be dated, with the title or precise nature of the work provided and underlined.
- All students need to keep a homework log in their books to track progress.

Roles and Responsibilities - Parents:

- Parents should facilitate their child's home learning as much as they are able e.g. monitor, provide the right environment, take an interest and support the school sanction policy.
- The Planner should be checked and signed regularly and should be used as a means of communication with the teacher/tutor.
- The home learning timetable should be checked to see which subject home learning is scheduled for each day.
- Parents should contact the student's Tutor or Subject Teacher where there is a general cause for concern regarding home learning. Parents should contact individual subject staff or Coordinators where there is a subject specific cause for concern regarding class or home learning.



Sanctions:

In addition to the standard procedures, we are trying to promote an ethos of good manners and self reflection, as well as developing responsible independent learners, and in order for this to take effect there has to be a small degree of flexibility when a home learning task is missing. It is at the teachers' discretion to decide whether or not to accept late submissions, however it is important to aim for whole school consistency in ensuring that home learning remains a priority T&L focus. Sanctions should be carried out as per school guidelines.

Rewards:

As per class learning, it is important to regularly praise and reward excellence. Progress made during home learning should be monitored recorded on the student logs. When home learning is given a positive high profile, students feel encouraged to complete tasks with conviction, understanding that the work they complete out of school hours has real focus and adds to their overall development and achievement.