

# Penryn College

## Homework Policy

**Approved by:** Full Governing Body

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**Responsible SLT member:** Dan Mather

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## Statement of intent

Penryn College is a vibrant, enthusiastic, forward-thinking and safe learning environment in which pupils are given every opportunity to complete a fulfilling education.

We believe that homework plays an important part in education and the benefit of doing homework must be instilled at an early age so that independent study can be achieved.

We are also aware that pupils have opportunities and experiences outside of school that are equally important in developing and enriching their lives. We will give careful consideration to ensuring homework is well-balanced across the school.

This policy was developed in consultation with staff members, parents and pupils, and with the full agreement of the governing board.

## Aims

This policy aims to:

- Develop a consistent approach to homework throughout the school.
- Make sure that teaching staff, parents and pupils are aware of their responsibilities with regards to homework.
- Ensure that parents understand what is expected of their child.
- Encourage pupils to develop the responsibility and self-discipline required for independent study.
- Embed knowledge and support pupils' learning experiences via revision and reinforcement.
- Work with parents and involve them in their child's learning, and to keep them informed about the work their child is undertaking.
- Use homework as a tool for raising standards of attainment.
- Extend learning beyond the classroom.
- Give pupils further practise and a deeper understanding of skills, knowledge and concepts learned during the school day.

## 1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Ways to reduce workload in your school(s)'
- Ofsted (2022) 'School inspection handbook'
- Ofsted (2022) 'School monitoring handbook'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Parent Code of Conduct

- Behaviour Policy
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy
- Attendance Policy

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

The headteacher and governing board will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy every 2 years and making appropriate updates as required.
- Discussing with staff the extent to which this policy is being implemented.
- Meeting with parents and discussing the impact of homework as appropriate.
- Providing parents with information about homework.
- Informing new parents about the this policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of inclusivity and accessibility of homework.

Heads of departments will be responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff within their department are aware of the school's Homework Policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy within their department and reporting their findings back to the headteacher.
- Answering any queries that teaching staff have regarding this policy and the school's practices.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all pupils understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities.
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure pupils are completing it.
- Marking homework and giving feedback to pupils.
- Communicating with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Being available to parents and pupils for a discussion about homework.
- Setting homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account and that the needs of pupils with disabilities are considered.
- Rewarding effort, quality work and praising pupils who regularly complete homework.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operating with the school to find a solution.

- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework and feedback from teachers.

Pupils will be responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for their own learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Having a positive approach towards homework.
- Putting the same effort into homework as class work.
- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework and returning to school all iPad, books and stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

### 3. The school's approach to homework

#### Length of Homework Assignments

To help students manage homework in Years 7, 8 and 9 we provide a routine. Depending on the subject, homework tasks are set weekly, fortnightly or occasionally. Teachers will occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial. Homework should be a good use of pupil and teachers' time

Year 7 are given approximately 15-30 minutes of homework/independent learning tasks per subject per week, rising to 45 minutes in Year 9. **It is stressed that these are guidelines only.** If students or parents anticipate problems with any independent learning/homework task, then they should talk to their Tutor or Subject Teacher. **In Year 7:**

- Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and Science set homework once every week.
- English homework is set twice each week (one is reading a student's own book for pleasure, which is also a specified activity during some tutor periods – this is not an assessed task, but it is expected that students all read regularly at home).
- ICT and Humanities set homework once a fortnight.
- Lifestyles, DT, Art and Drama set homework occasionally.
- Music and P.E. lessons are mainly practical in years 7, 8 and 9. Students are encouraged to join the many extra-curricular clubs we have on offer at the college. **In Years 8 and 9:**
- Homework is set as in year 7, but increases to 30 to 45 minutes per subject, respectively.

#### In Years 10 and 11

Subjects provide approximately 45-60 minutes of homework each week. Again, as with Key Stage 3, these are guidelines only. Students may be involved in lots of extracurricular sports, creative arts or have other commitments which will impact upon the time dedicated to studies, but *it is expected that students communicate with their teachers regularly to discuss deadlines if this is the case; studies must take priority.*

## **4. Absences**

If a pupil is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods – pupils should be well enough to undertake any work supplied.

There may be exceptions to the above and the classroom teacher will decide whether homework should be set on a case-by-case basis. If a pupil is absent for a long period of time, the teacher and the parents of the pupil may agree on what should be done and how much help should be provided. If appropriate, this will be planned with the pupil's Head or Year and/or Senior Leaders. Teachers should be aware of students who have missed larger numbers of lessons through absence and offer appropriate support.

## **5. Pupils who fail to complete homework**

All pupils will be expected to complete homework on time.

Teachers will keep records of pupils completing homework which are regularly checked. Teachers will make efforts to support pupils who are struggling to complete homework and will raise any concerns regarding their pupils' ability to complete homework to the pupil's tutor and/or parents as appropriate.

Pupils who refuse to complete homework will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

## **6. Marking homework**

Homework will be marked in accordance with the school's Marking and Feedback Policy.

## **7. Pupils with SEND**

A balanced approach to homework will be adopted for pupils with SEND, in consultation with the pupil's parents and the SENCO.

Where appropriate, the school will set adjusted or specific tasks for pupils with SEND as outlined in their individual education plans.

While pupils with SEND may benefit from differentiated tasks separate from the homework received by other pupils, they will also complete as much standard homework as possible.

Pupils with SEND will be supported in accordance with the school's SEND Policy.

## **8. Equal opportunities**

The school will ensure that it provides the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, sex, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background.

All pupils will have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

## **9. Monitoring and review**

This policy is reviewed every 2 years by the headteacher.

Any updates to this policy will be shared with parents, pupils and staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is March 2026

Final