

TASKER MILWARD VC SCHOOL HOMEWORK POLICY

Issue No	Author/Owner	Date Written	Approved by Governors on	Comments
Issue 3	HT	Reviewed 12	June 04 November 2012	Resubmitted to Governors 2012

Aims and Objectives

Homework is an integral part of a child's education. It may be defined as any learning activity that pupils are asked to do outside normal lesson hours. Homework should be relevant to the work in school and be designed to complement that work in a number of ways:-

- As **extension** of work in class to test concepts learned or to develop the learning in new ways.
- As **preparation** – to begin the processes/ideas related to a new section of work.
- As **consolidation**, to practise a skill or check the understanding of work covered in class.
- As **continuation** or **completion** of a piece of work already set in class – this type of homework should be occasional only and not the norm.
- **'Project'** type work set over a longer period, developing both knowledge and independent study skills

Homework tasks will be varied – involving writing, reading, redrafting, research, revision. It should give the pupil a chance to develop independent study skills.

Setting Homework

- It is important that the homework task is made explicit to the pupil along with a realistic completion date.
- Homework should never be set for the next day
- In the case of a longer piece of work the task may last over several weeks.
- Homework should be a planned part of the scheme of work.
- If homework requires specific resources (e.g. the internet) it is the teacher's responsibility to ensure all pupils have access to the required resource or make alternatives available

Use of the Student Planner

- The planner is an important vehicle of communication between school and home.
- All homework should be recorded in the planner when it is set along with the completion date.
- Time should be made at the appropriate part of the lesson for this to be done.

Time for Homework

The amount of time a pupil spends on homework should be reasonable. It will vary from year to year and may also vary at different times of the year e.g. near a test or assessment, before a coursework deadline. Some pupils will complete homework tasks in a shorter time than others.

Parental Assistance

Parental interest in pupils' work is welcome, and should be encouraged, but it is not helpful if the work is done by the parents. Nevertheless, teachers should be aware that homework is one way by which parents gain a regular insight into their children's work and into the standards and expectations of the school. Parents can ensure that there is a quiet, suitable place at home where the pupil may concentrate on doing homework.

Marking and Assessment

- Homework, when written, should be marked in accordance with the departmental marking policy and school marking protocol.
- Homework must be marked in a timely fashion.
- Self assessment and peer marking are useful techniques that may be used from time to time in marking homework, in line with accepted good practice (AfL).
- Comments should offer the pupil advice on how to improve and be specific.

Relevance

- Homework should never be set merely because the students have a lesson in the subject.
- It should be interesting, worthwhile and not take up excessive time.
- It should never be set as a punishment.

Communication

Departments must ensure that pupils understand why homework is set, when it is to be set, when and how it is to be marked or assessed and what part it plays in the overall curriculum. It may be best to do this at the start of the academic year. This will enable pupils to understand the purpose of homework, and hopefully, gain the full benefit from it.