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**Homework Policy**

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This policy gives guidance to staff on Homework and should be read alongside other policies that are pertinent to teaching and learning.

Introduction

At Bishopton, we consider homework to be any task or activity that contributes to learning, set by staff at the school for students to complete outside of their normal school day, which contributes to their learning in response to guidance from Bishopton. Homework encompasses a whole variety of activities instigated by teachers and parents/carers to support children’s learning. For example, a parent/carer who spends time sharing a book with their child before bedtime is helping with the learning process.

We believe that homework is an important part of a child's education and can add much to a child's development. We recognise that the educational experience that any school by itself can provide is limited by the time and resources available; children can therefore benefit greatly from the complementary learning that they do at home. However, it must be noted that the pupils who attend Bishopton PRU are often dis-engaged with school and therefore struggle to complete work outside of school time. Homework is encouraged but no student is made to feel guilty for not completing homework, however its importance is stressed when it is linked to preparation for external examinations. The setting of homework is flexible and time scales take into account family interests and commitments.

Many of the pupils who attend Bishopton have found this aspect of school difficult, therefore, they have a predetermined negative attitude towards its implementation. We hope to foster good working habits, and, after an initial period, we encourage all our students to take a more positive and responsible attitude towards their own learning.

Rationale for homework

Learning is a lifelong process; it is not something which takes place purely during a school day. We are aware that learning experiences can be further enriched by not restricting education to the time and resources provided in any school/PRU. Children and parents benefit from sharing the learning processes. Tasks completed at home are also an important way of establishing a successful dialogue between teachers and parents. Bishopton PRU encourages children to develop as independent learners.

We acknowledge the important role of play and free time in a child’s growth and development. We realise that such activities can present learning opportunities themselves and can play a positive role in raising a child’s level of attainment. Homework should form part of a wide range of out-of-PRU activities that play an integral part in the lives of all children. We are well aware that children spend more time at home than at school. When encouraged by parents, children can develop their skills, interests and talents to the full.

Aims and objectives

One of the aims of our teaching is for children to develop as independent learners, and we believe that learning at home is one of the main ways in which children can acquire the skill of independent learning. Homework also plays a positive role in raising a child's level of attainment.

The aims and objectives of homework are:

* To enable pupils to make progress in their academic and social development.
* To help pupils develop the skills of an independent learner.
* To promote cooperation between home and school in supporting each child's learning.
* To enable aspects of the curriculum to be covered in greater depth; · to provide educational experiences not always possible in school.
* To consolidate and reinforce the learning done in school.
* To allow children to practise skills taught in lessons.
* To allow students time to consolidate, research and extend work undertaken in the centre
* To help students to take responsibility for their own learning
* To foster the habit of independent work
* To reinforce the concept of education as a partnership between home and Bishopton PRU
* To help to prepare students who hope to return to mainstream school where homework is an important element of learning and personal organisation
* To provide the study time necessary outside school hours to complete examination syllabuses and assessment requirements for students at Key Stage 4.

**Types of homework**

Homework will be set when appropriate and on an individual basis according to need or as tasks for the whole class. A variety of types of homework may be set throughout Bishopton. These may include:

* Reading
* Learning spellings & times tables/number facts
* Research
* Reinforcement of learning in school time
* Practical activities
* Reflection/evaluation of work completed in school time set consistently for full-time pupils only.
* Creative choice and ‘Takeaway’ homework - where the students are given a range of learning activities to choose from. Wherever possible, each activity is personalised to your child’s ability and includes different levels of challenge allowing the student to be in control of their learning.
* 20 things passport – There are a variety of activities included in the 50 things to do before you leave the Bishopton that are designed to develop pupils’ social, emotional spiritual and cultural development and pupils may be tasked with completing some of the activities on the list outside of school. (See appendix A for extract from the passport)

**Inclusive Homework**

We set tasks for all children as a normal part of school life. We ensure that these are appropriate to the ability of all children. Activities will be sympathetic to their individual needs.

**Equal Opportunities**

We try to limit the number of resources required to complete homework tasks, as we are aware that not every home has access to a wide resource library and educational equipment. Access to ICT is available for students at break and lunch times.

**Marking of homework**

Where appropriate, homework is marked according to the general school feedback and marking policy. Homework completed well is acknowledged and praised. There may be issues arising from the work, which the teacher will follow up in lesson time.

Rewards can be given for outstanding pieces of homework. Once every half term, students’ collect of homework tasks are presented to Bishopton’s Senior Leadership Team. Rewards are then given in line with Bishopton PRU’s reward policy.

**The role of parents/carers**

Parents and carers have a vital role to play in their child's education, and homework is an important part of this process. We ask parents and carers to encourage their child to complete any homework tasks that are set. We invite them to help their children as and when they feel it to be necessary, and to provide them with the sort of environment that allows children to do their best.

Parents/carers can support their children by:

* Providing a peaceful working space at home.
* Discussing the work that their child is doing.
* Not completing the work for their children as it is important that the teacher is aware of the child’s own ability to complete the work.
* Enabling their child to visit a library regularly
* Enabling their child to visit educational places of interest e.g. Museums

If parents/carers have any problems or questions about topics or tasks, they should, in the first instance, contact the child’s class teacher. Should parents/carers wish to make a complaint about the PRU homework policy or the way it is implemented, they should follow the PRU’s complaints procedure.

**The use of ICT/Internet**

The use of ICT and the Internet has made a significant contribution to the amount of reference material available at home, and the ease and speed with which it can be accessed. However, our teachers expect their pupils to produce their own work, perhaps by editing something they have found, or by expressing it in their own words. The children are not achieving anything worthwhile by merely downloading and printing out something that has been written by somebody else.

Due to the nature of the internet and the amount of material on there, Parents or carers are advised always to supervise their child's access to the Internet to ensure they are not accessing inappropriate material.

**Roles and Responsibilities**

Responsibility for promoting the highest quality of Homework lies with the whole school community. It requires professionalism (based on Support Staff, HLTA and Teachers Standards and Performance Management) from all staff in the school and in return expects learners to understand the part they play in the process so that they can take responsibility for their own learning.

Key roles and responsibilities include:

* The Governing Body in defining and agreeing the principles underlying the school policy and in monitoring and reviewing its application;
* The Co-Headteachers in framing the school policy and, with other members of the Senior Leadership Team, organising support for the implementation of the policy and the monitoring of teaching and learning;
* All staff in ensuring consistent application of the policy;
* Parents and carers, who will be encouraged to take an interest in their child’s learning, working in partnership with the school to maintain high levels of progress;
* Learners need to be aware of what is expected of them in order that their learning, and that of those around them, is as effective as possible. It is important that they understand the value of the learning process.

**Monitoring and review**

It is the responsibility of our Governing Body to agree and then monitor the PRU homework policy.

The Senior Leadership Team will regularly review the provision of Homework throughout the school, via the SEF calendar, by monitoring and analysing planning and teaching and learning; completing work and marking scrutinies; observing lessons/classrooms; completing learning walks; speaking to learners and analysing pupil and parent feedback; regular discussions with staff and governors.

**UNICEF - UNCRC**

The UN Convention of the Rights of the Child sets out human rights of every person under 18 and applies to every child without discrimination, whatever their ethnicity, gender, religion, language, abilities or any other status, whatever they think or say, whatever their family background (Article 2).

Articles directly relating to this policy are:

Article 2 (Non-discrimination)

Article 12 (Respect the views of the child)

Article 13 (Freedom of expression)

Article 17 (Access to information from the media)

Article 28 (Right to education)

Article 29 (Goals of education)

Article 31 (Leisure, play and culture)

APPENDIX A

Do a piece of homework

Ok, we get it, the thought of doing homework doesn’t fill you with joy when there is probably loads of other stuff you would rather do instead but did you know that there is actually loads of advantages to doing homework, it teaches you about managing your time, setting priorities, solving problems, taking responsibility for your own development and these are all mega important qualities to have in the world of work? Plus, it gives you the chance to practice what you have been taught and let your teachers know what you still need to work on. To get this stamp have a go at a piece of homework to get you into the swing of it, get it marked and get the stamp.

*“Education is a cause very close to me. What matters is encouraging my fans to focus on their education, because only an educated generation can ensure a better future. Even when I was on tour, I did my homework and studied”*

Martin Garrix

DJ/Producer

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