

THE RIPLEY ACADEMY

A member of the East Midlands Education Trust



Homework Policy

2021 - 2024



Achieving Excellence Together

Policy reviewed:	Summer 2021
Reviewed by:	Deputy Headteacher
Next review due:	Summer 2024



Ripley Academy Homework Policy

Key principles

1. At The Ripley Academy our Heads of Department, in partnership with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), are responsible for ensuring that their students achieve in line with their aspirational targets. Homework is a learning tool which heads of department will use strategically to maximise achievement
2. Heads of Department are accountable to the Headteacher regarding the achievement of their students. Strategic use of homework will be reviewed as part of this accountability
3. School leadership empowers staff to use their professional judgement in setting inspiring, effective, thoughtful homework and offers appropriate support where this standard is not met
4. The school recognises that different subjects and different teachers will use homework in different ways in order to move their students forward
5. The school has found that homework timetables are rarely effective and only seek to promote ineffective practice. For example, a timetable can result in teachers setting homework for reasons of process rather than learning and this can lead to homework which is tokenistic and unconnected with the 'learning journey'. We strongly encourage teachers to work with students to equalise their workload and set homework in a frequent and appropriate manner
6. In line with the school's beliefs around personalisation, students who are underachieving (particularly those who are disadvantaged or have high prior attainment) should be given extra or differentiated homework and their work should be marked first to ensure the highest quality of feedback. This extra work should be accompanied by appropriate support, guidance and time and may include a student's involvement in homework club.
7. Unless stated otherwise, a piece of homework is compulsory and its completion on time is expected.
8. All homework will be marked clearly as **HWK** in the **MARGIN** next to it.
8. Completion of homework will be rewarded, failure to complete and hand in homework will be logged on SIMS but not sanctioned. **PERSISTENT** failure to complete homework will be dealt with by Heads of Department and Pastoral leaders and involve the parent or career as and when it is deemed necessary.



Preparing our students for the world of work: responsibility, resilience and reflection

We want to prepare our students for a future career in a competitive environment. We aim to develop the 3Rs: responsibility, resilience and reflection in order to achieve this end. We expect our students to be able to manage their independent learning workload effectively. Particularly in Years 10-13 we view it as the responsibility of the student, supported by families and teachers, to plan their work so that all tasks are completed on time.

Although we will try and provide a steady flow of work, it will be the case from time to time that the workload increases and decreases.

Marking

1. Teachers undertake to mark homework appropriately and promptly in line with their department marking and assessment policy.
2. High standards of literacy/ numeracy must be encouraged. All teachers have a shared responsibility to correct students' spelling and grammatical mistakes when they see them in line with school marking policy
3. Students are expected to act on any feedback they receive upon the marking of their homework

Show My Homework (SMHW)

Use of the online homework setting system is essential:

1. All homework is set by teachers using this system
2. All deadlines for submission are shown on this system
3. Some homework will need to be submitted on the system
4. There is facility for teachers and students to communicate about the homework set on this system should there be any concerns or questions
5. Parents can have a login so they can monitor the homework of their child

Proviso to above: Teachers should remember that not all students have internet access at home. Furthermore, where families have more than one child, computer access may be limited. In this instance we encourage the use of our computer rooms at lunchtimes as well as after school.

Quality Assurance

How will we know that appropriate levels of meaningful homework are being set and completed?

1. Heads of Department review books and homework as a key part of learning walks, lesson observations, work scrutiny, planning scrutiny and student voice scrutiny
2. Pastoral leaders will sample, as part of their review systems, the homework 'diet' of the students in their care. They may make recommendations to Heads of Department where adjustments to homework loading, style or standards might be made
3. Parent and student views will be solicited, evaluated and acted upon where appropriate



Roles and responsibilities

As already outlined Heads of Department are responsible for the strategic use of homework as a tool to increase achievement and learning. This means that they are responsible for all aspects of homework policy and practice in their areas.

Students are responsible for checking SMHW, planning the completion and submission of homework that they are proud of, in time. Students are also expected to ask for help or clarification where required IN GOOD TIME so that they have time to complete the task. Students must make special efforts to plan to overcome potential technical difficulties (such as printers not working) in order to make deadlines.

SLT is responsible for the creation, oversight and overall effectiveness of homework policy.

Pastoral leaders are responsible for monitoring the standard to which students complete homework and for evaluating the quality and levels of homework set for the students in their year groups.

The subject teacher is responsible for setting meaningful, effective homework in line with faculty policy, ensuring students complete homework, marking it regularly and providing feedback to students (in line with department policy).

Parents/ carers should support students with their homework; show that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help students to progress. Parents/carers should encourage students and praise them when homework is completed.

Appendix 1

Recommended time for homework (Source: Teachernet Nov 2010)

Every school will consider how much time is appropriate for pupils at each stage, according to their aptitude. The Government's recommended time allocation, based on current good practice, is set out in Homework - Guidelines for Primary Schools and Secondary Schools, as follows:

At secondary level, the Government recommends that the time spent on homework should fall within the following ranges:

Year 7 and 8 (45-90 minutes per day)

Year 9 (1-2 hours per day)

Year 10 and 11 (1.5-2.5 hours a day)