



ALL SAINTS
ACADEMY PLYMOUTH

HOMEWORK POLICY

Author of Policy
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Signed on behalf of Governing Body

Reviewed
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ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY PLYMOUTH
Pennycross PLYMOUTH PL5 3NE

All Saints Church of England Academy, Plymouth aims to be an inspirational community of learning, which will transform the life chances of the students and make a positive contribution to the well-being of the local community and the wider world. The Academy is rooted in Christian values including truth, justice, forgiveness, generosity and respect. The Academy aims to provide outstanding educational opportunities and experiences which will enable all students, regardless of ability and background, to bring out the best in themselves, and to make a difference for good in the world.

The Academy believes that education is about the development of the whole person, and in educating each student will endeavour to:

- sharpen the mind
- enrich the imagination
- strengthen the body
- nourish the spirit
- encourage the will to do good
- open the heart to others

This policy and the associated procedures are based on these principles, aims and beliefs.

Introduction

We believe that homework should be set on a regular basis for all students and should fulfil the aims of the Academy in:

- meeting the educational needs of all students as individuals by fostering a spirit of enquiry and thus enabling them to acquire knowledge, skills, understanding and qualifications.
- providing worthwhile learning activities that are planned and integral parts of the programme of study.

Purpose

- To foster responsibility, self-discipline and good organisation in students.
- To reinforce and consolidate skills, knowledge and understanding imparted in class.
- To supplement and extend the work covered in class.
- To provide opportunities for research.
- To prepare students for future lessons.
- To further the parent-Academy partnership.
- To encourage students to become independent learners.

Procedure

- A formal homework timetable will be devised for the beginning of each academic year by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who will advise on time allocation.
- A timetable will be given to each parent at the beginning of each academic year and advice will be given to parents on how they can help their children.
- Each student will be provided with a Student Planner in which to record homework set and their homework timetable.
- The students are responsible for keeping their planners up to date and in good condition, and to meet homework demands.
- Tutors are responsible for monitoring the students' planners and signing them weekly. If they consider insufficient homework is being set they should contact subject teachers in the first instance. The planners for each Learning Family should be checked by the Learning Family Leader at regular intervals.
- Parents should be encouraged to sign the planner weekly and write a note if there are reasons for a student failing to do homework.
- Staff are advised to adhere to the homework timetable where possible in order to ensure that the amount of homework is spread evenly throughout the week.
- Homework set should be:
 - an integral part of schemes of work
 - relevant to the current class work
 - realistic in its demands on student time and resources
 - matched to the learning needs of the student

- Open-ended tasks provide opportunities for students of all levels of ability to achieve and in particular allow the able student to produce extended, reflective work. Learning Support will advise and collaborate with subject teachers to ensure tasks are suitable for students with SEN.
- Teachers should use the government guidelines to ensure students spend sufficient time on homework. This should be approximately 30 - 45 minutes per subject in Years 7 & 8, up to 1 hour per subject in Year 9 and a minimum of 1 hour per subject in Years 10 & 11.
- Staff should take time during the lesson to ensure that all students have recorded their homework accurately and understand what is required of them. This is of particular importance for those students who are hearing-impaired.
- Homework should be marked and returned to the students promptly. Marking must be in line with the Academy assessment and marking policies.
- When a student fails to complete homework or if the work is of an unacceptable standard the member of staff should investigate why, considering for example:
 - home circumstances
 - the student's previous record for completion of homework
- The teacher will use his/her professional judgement as to whether to apply appropriate Academy sanctions. If problems persist the student should be referred to the tutor and parents should be informed. Copies of any communication regarding homework should be forwarded to the tutor for filing. If a student is experiencing difficulties with completing tasks the teacher should consult the appropriate support teacher for that Learning Community. It would greatly benefit good practice if consistent sanctions were applied across Learning Communities and subjects to instil good study habits in students.

Resources

- Students will be provided with a planner to record homework details
- Staff, students and parents will be provided with homework timetables
- Where possible, homework can be accessed via the VLE.

The Academy recognises that the home circumstances of some of our students do not provide a suitable environment for study. The library opening hours are extended beyond the normal Academy day and many Learning Communities run homework clubs during lunchtime and after the Academy day. Students and parents should be informed and reminded of these opportunities at regular intervals.