

# Homework Policy



## Policy Statement

- Expected minimums
- Purpose of Homework
- Types of Homework
- Expectations

### Summary:

We have clearly structured **“Expected Minimums”** in place to provide guidance on quality of, frequency of, and feedback for, homework.

### Linked Policies

Attitude to Learning Policy  
(November 2020)

**M Houston**

**Principal**

### History

- Ratified by Board of Governors  
22 February 2023

## **Ulidia Integrated College: Homework Policy**

### **1 Rationale**

At Ulidia Integrated College we passionately believe that homework develops the skills required for independent learning, extends learning time, and thus improves the life chances of our young people.

We have clearly structured “*Expected Minimums*” in place to provide guidance on quality of, frequency of, and feedback for, homework.

### **2 Purpose of Homework**

Ulidia Integrated College recognises that homework is an integral part of the learning and teaching process. We believe it helps pupils to consolidate work done in school and develop time management and independent study skills. Homework establishes habits of study, concentration and self-discipline which will serve students for the rest of their lives.

We believe that homework which is set and managed effectively contributes to the raising of attainment.

Homework helps parents/carers become involved with their child’s education. It helps them to see what their child is learning in school and gives them the opportunity to support this learning at home.

Homework enables the classroom teacher to assess, on a regular basis, if pupils have understood the work covered in class and how much progress the pupil is making.

Effective homework practices need to be established early in year 8 and develop progressively across the key stages.

### **3 Quality: “*Expected Minimums*”**

Homework is most beneficial when:

- It reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates basic skills and knowledge
- It is challenging and purposeful, but not so demanding that it has an adverse effect on the pupils’ motivation
- Parents and carers are involved in the formulation and implementation of the school’s homework policy
- Pupils take responsibility for their homework, supported by the parents
- It is planned for, and teacher expectations are well communicated
- It is set on a regular basis and establishes a routine of home study
- Consideration is given to barriers to learning and to the completion of homework
- Feedback and follow-up are provided regularly to pupils
- It develops and extends the core learning skills of inquiry and independent study

## 4 Types of Homework

The three main types of homework are:

**4.1 Practice Exercises** - providing pupils with the opportunities to apply new knowledge, or review, revise and reinforce newly acquired skills, including:

- Consolidation exercise e.g., mathematics
- Practising for mastery e.g., drama
- Revising information about a current topic
- Practising words or phrases learnt in a modern foreign language
- Essay writing

**4.2 Preparatory Exercises/Flipped Learning** – providing opportunities for pupils to gain background information on a unit of study so that they are better prepared for future lessons, including:

- Background reading
- Reading e.g., English text for class discussion
- Researching topics for a class unit of work
- Collecting items

**4.3 Extension Assignments** – encouraging pupils to pursue knowledge individually and imaginatively, including:

- Writing e.g., a book review
- Making or designing something e.g., artwork
- Investigations e.g., science
- Researching e.g., history, local news
- Information and retrieval skills e.g., finding material on the internet

## 5 Frequency: “*Expected Minimums*”

Homework will be set for pupils in all subjects on a regular basis. The amount each pupil receives will depend on:

- Their age
- The subject/course

The college will strive to ensure that the following expected minimums are met however there may be times in the year when this will vary e.g., it may increase when deadlines for coursework are pending and before tests and examinations. After examinations, it may diminish for a short period to allow teachers to mark and report. In addition, there may be some flexibility in subjects that are predominantly practical in nature to coincide with the theory lessons in these subjects.

## **5.1 Years 8-10**

Expected Minimums for subjects with:

- 2-3 periods per cycle = 1 homework per cycle
- 4-5 periods per cycle = 2 pieces of homework per cycle
- 6-7 periods per cycle = 3 short and 1 extended piece of homework per cycle

## **5.2 Year 11-14**

In Years 11-14 the amount of time required to be spent on homework will increase from key stage 3 and will vary according to deadlines and assessments. As well as set homework, pupils may be required to complete assignments and work on personal reading or personal study. We encourage pupils to develop independent study habits. Independent study is an essential element of success both at GCSE level and in our post-16 courses, enabling pupils to consolidate and extend the learning that they do in lessons. It is a key aspect of students' preparation for Further and Higher Education.

As a minimum, pupils are expected to complete an additional hour of independent study at home each evening. This includes completing work started in lessons, reading around the topic being studied and pre-learning for future topics.

## **6 Feedback: “*Expected Minimums*”**

Ulidia Integrated College recognises that homework feedback provided by the teacher in class is an important tool to increase the impact of homework on pupils' learning and academic achievement. There will be times when feedback will be in formal written format by the class teacher and times when informal, oral feedback is given. There may be opportunities for peer marking and feedback. In all scenarios feedback should be:

- Educative in its nature
- Given in a timely manner
- Sensitive to the individual needs of the pupil
- Referenced to a skill or specific knowledge
- Aimed at keeping pupils on target for achievement

## **7 Planners**

Pupils in Years 8-12 are required to write details of homework for each evening into their student planner. The planner is also a useful communication tool for parents/carers and teachers. Parents are asked to read through their child's planner each week and sign the appropriate page.

## **8 Monitoring**

Homework should be checked, and marks recorded. Pupils need to learn to meet deadlines and need to realise that the punctuality of completion is a skill that is also measured. It will give pupils practice in scheduling, a vital skill in independent learning.

If homework is not submitted this may result in the following action being taken:

- The class teacher will have a discussion with the pupil to find out if there are good reasons for the failure to submit homework
- The class teacher may contact the parents by writing a comment in the student planner in the section entitled “Behaviour for Learning Comments”
- Pupils may be asked to attend a private lunch time session to complete the work (maximum 20 minutes at the beginning of the lunch session)
- Pupils may be asked to attend an after-school detention set by the Head of Department, and the Head of Year will be notified
- Pupils may be placed in an after-school detention, by the Head of Year for persistent infringement

## **9 Expectations**

### **9.1 Parents and Guardians can help by:**

- Taking an active interest in homework
- Ensuring that there is time set aside at home for homework
- Encouraging and supporting pupils to complete homework at home, or attend the school-based homework/study skills club after school for additional support with homework
- Providing, where possible, a dedicated space for homework and study
- Encouraging their children to read and take an interest in current events
- Assisting teachers to monitor homework by signing completed work if requested and being aware of the amount of homework set
- Communicating with their children’s form tutor any concerns about the nature of homework set and their children’s approach to homework
- Alerting the school to any domestic or extra-curricular activities which may need to be taken into consideration when homework is being set or corrected

### **9.2 Teachers can help by:**

- Explaining to pupils the purpose and benefits of homework
- Providing quality homework activities related to classwork
- Setting a suitable amount of relevant homework which is appropriate to the ability of each student
- Setting tasks which are wide-ranging and well structured
- Ensuring pupils are aware of what is expected of them, and how their work will be assessed
- Ensuring all pupils record their homework in their planner
- Giving pupils sufficient time to record and complete their homework

- Marking homework promptly and appropriately, maintaining homework records and providing feedback to pupils
- Alerting parents and carers of any developing problems concerning their child's homework and suggesting strategies that they can use

### **9.3 Pupils can help by:**

- Being aware of the importance of homework
- Recording homework in their planner and ensuring their understanding of the homework tasks before leaving school
- Reading all instructions carefully before beginning homework
- Completing homework within the given time frame
- Seeking assistance from teachers and parents/carers when difficulties arise
- Ensuring homework is of a high standard
- Organising their time to ensure that sufficient time is given to quality homework with set deadline

## **10 After School Homework Club and Study Skills Club**

At Ulidia Integrated College we feel so strongly that good homework habits can lead to future success for our pupils that we have scheduled After School Homework Club for pupils in Years 8-10 and After School Study Skills Club for Years 11-14 at the following times:

Years 8-10: Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3.00pm – 4.00pm in LS1

Year 11-14: Every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 3.10pm – 4.00pm in ICT5

In these sessions pupils will receive support to complete their homework from Learning Support Assistants. They will have access to computers and google classroom.

### **Linked Policies**

*Attitude to Learning Policy (November 2020)*