



Croydon High School
HOMEWORK & MARKING POLICY
(Senior School)

The Purpose of Homework

Homework should be set as an *aid* to the learning process. It should serve one, or more, of the following functions and not be set for its own sake:

- i. To develop habits of personal organisation, independent learning, resilience and resourcefulness;
- ii. To consolidate and build on classwork by means of extension exercises, practice tasks or revision;
- iii. To prepare for lessons through research, note-taking or guided learning from books and other appropriate sources;
- iv. To develop skills, both those of general academic benefit and specific to examination demands;
- v. To extend the range of available resources e.g. using books and information at home and in libraries, and asking other people;
- vi. To provide parents with an insight into their daughter's learning, reaffirming their role as partners and strengthening home-school links.

Frequency and Amount

- i. Homework must be set in accordance with the published homework timetable in Years 7-11 and at the teacher's discretion in the Sixth Form;
- ii. In Year 7 & 8 students should have homework, according to the homework timetable which lasts no more than 30 minutes per subject. In Year 9, this figure increases to 45 minutes;
- iii. Pupils in the Upper School (Years 10 & 11) will have one homework lasting one hour per week per subject. All homework set will be given over a period of time to allow pupils to ensure that the work is of good quality;
- iv. It is the parents' prerogative to decide when their daughter has done sufficient work for one evening and parental messages to that effect should be accepted but, the subject teacher should be informed if this becomes a regular occurrence.

Administration and monitoring of homework

- i. In Years 7-11 pupils will record all homework in their homework diaries. These will be signed by parents weekly and should be checked on a regular basis by Form Tutors;
- ii. Sixth Form pupils, in a reflection of their increasing independence, are free to document their homework however they wish;
- iii. All teachers should ensure that all homework is also available through Firefly, our VLE which both pupils and parents can access;

- iv. Where homework has not reached the required standard, pupils should be asked to re-present it. Non-production of homework will be reported by subject teachers to Form Tutors;
- v. Homework concerns are also reported home formally via our reporting system (see the 'Assessment, Grading & Reporting Policy');
- vi. Should issues such as the late or non-production of homework or sub-standard work persist, teachers, the relevant Form Tutor and Head of Year will work together to agree on a plan of action which might include putting the student on a report which monitors engagement and homework on a lesson-by-lesson basis. Parents are required to sign this report (in Years 7-11) on a weekly basis;
- vii. For Sixth Form, repeated concerns over homework might be addressed by compulsory attendance at designated study periods (or DSPs, for short) which may be supervised or unsupervised.

Assessment of Pupils' Work (including homework) Through Marking

Assessment covers all those activities that are undertaken by teachers to measure the effectiveness of teaching and learning. It is, therefore, fundamental to good classroom practice. Assessment may be formal—such as the marking of written work or tests—or informal—such as asking pupils questions in class. While this policy focuses on the formal process of marking, informal means of assessment, commonly housed under the umbrella of 'assessment for learning', are of vital importance in promoting effective teaching and learning.

At its most successful, marking as a type of assessment is a *dialogue* between the teacher and the pupil to improve the pupil's understanding and subsequent work. While the purpose of marking varies according to the nature of the work set, it may serve one or more of the following functions:

- i. To enable pupil progress through good quality formative feedback;
- ii. To encourage and reinforce effective effort, progress and attainment;
- iii. To ensure pupils have understood a topic and that they have been able to correct errors and misunderstandings;
- iv. To ensure that work has been completed according to instructions;
- v. To assess a pupil's level of achievement in comparison to their peers, or national benchmarks.

Marking Best Practice: ten tips

Teachers should mark pupils' work with the following best practice in mind:

- i. Marking should be predominantly comment-based. Comments should specify what is good about a piece of work and make suggestions about how the pupil can make progress;
- ii. All work that pupils complete at home should carry a comment when it is marked by the teacher;
- iii. Pupils should be encouraged to respond to teacher comments. Pupils are more likely to take notice of comments if they are asked to respond or take action in some way and when they are given the time to do so;

- iv. Marking should be conducted with an awareness of appropriate baselines though reference need not always be made to these in written commentary;
- v. For examination classes, a reference to examination board standards might be provided to pupils, allowing them to appreciate fully the assessment criteria used by the relevant examining body and for a particular grade;
- vi. Where an individual's progress is better than raw ability suggests, even if attainment is relatively low, suitable praise and encouragement should be given. If an individual is under-performing relative to a baseline, then this merits further investigation;
- vii. In order to evidence verbal feedback, pupils should be encouraged take notes and to annotate their work with the verbal feedback they were given.
- viii. Project-based activities need to have some form of regular marking, especially if the project extends over a lengthy period. This is to ensure that pupils are managing the time and content of their project work effectively. In the case of coursework for examinations, interim deadlines should be communicated to pupils and their parents. If the coursework is below the expected standard at this stage, parents must be told. Any concerns must be discussed with relevant Head of Department and the Deputy Head (Academic);
- ix. The recording of marking must be designed to maximise the ability of teachers and Heads of Department to assess and respond to the needs of the individual and the group. It should also provide an objective and easily accessible record of pupils' progress which is available to senior staff and parents, as and when necessary;
- x. Not all assessment requires formal recording. However, it is essential that adequate records are kept to ensure that pupils' performance can be monitored effectively.

For all work which pupils are asked to do, it is essential that they have a clear sense of what success *might* look like. Exemplar material and model responses can be useful in showing pupils what is required.

For details about reviews of marking of Internally Assessed Coursework (GCSE/IGCSE controlled assessments, GCE coursework, GCE and GCSE non-examination assessments), please see the 'Internally-Assessed Coursework' Policy.

Frequency and speed of return of marking

- i. Pupils should have their work marked by teachers at least fortnightly in every subject;
- ii. This may be supplemented by oral feedback from teachers or by peer assessment; which should be evidenced as described in point vii above;
- iii. Marking should be returned as quickly as possible. This maximises both the learning impact of the task as well as student motivation.

Monitoring of marking and assessment

- i. Given the crucial role that marking has on pupil progress it is essential that the quality of this feedback is monitored by those with responsibility for teaching

- and learning (such as Heads of Department or a member of the Senior Leadership Team);
- ii. **Marking should be monitored once a term at a departmental level for each year group to ensure quality and consistency and the schedule for this scrutiny is identified in the annual subject review documentation;**
 - iii. Judgements as to the effectiveness of marking should be made with reference to the following criteria:

1. Outstanding	
Strategies exist to acknowledge/celebrate the achievement of targets	
Pupils are involved in setting targets for improvement	
There is a very good level of response to personalised comments from teachers	
There is some subsequent response from the teacher	
Comments from the teacher are particularly focused and diagnostic, revealing very good subject knowledge and pedagogy	
Pupils actively demonstrate an understanding of targets set	
2. Good	
All pupils are set relevant, accurate targets on a regular basis	
Self-assessment is a regular activity: pupils know what they are good at and what they need to do to improve	
Pupils revisit and respond to previous learning through written, post-task questions	
Pupils respond to personalised comments from teachers	
3. Satisfactory	
There is sufficient work in the pupils' books to allow marking to have impact (reflecting a well-planned curriculum)	
Work is marked regularly	
Pupils know how well they have done in relation to the objective	
Marking helps to build confidence	
The majority of marking is about recognising success	
Some relevant targets are set	
The teacher's handwriting is easy to read	
The teacher's spelling and use of Standard English is accurate	
4. Inadequate	
Marking is likely to be inadequate if it does little to help pupils improve. The key features of inadequate marking are the opposite of satisfactory marking.	

- iv. Every term, members of the Senior Leadership Team will conduct a book review of a particular key stage using the template above and formally record their findings which are then communicated to teachers and Heads of Department as necessary.

Parental involvement

We welcome the support parents can give in encouraging and enhancing their child's learning. We recognise that it is important to have a balance in life, and that time spent visiting places of interest, taking part in sport, talking, exploring ideas and having fun together can all enhance learning.

Responsibilities

- i. **Pupils:** to complete all homework to the best of their ability and to respond to teacher feedback on their work;
- ii. **Teachers:** to implement policy;
- iii. **Head of Department:** to monitor staff who are implementing the policy in their department;
- iv. **Deputy Head (Academic):** to oversee the implementation of the policy throughout the school and to monitor HoDs, in particular, one-person departments.

Policy reviewed: Summer 2019

Next review: Summer 2021