KING EDWARD'S SENIOR SCHOOL POLICY DOCUMENT

Title: Homework Policy

Policy Category	Academic
Status	Approved
Approved by	SMT
Current Author	ABS
Last Approved/Updated	April 2026
Frequency of Review	Two years
Date of Next Review	September 2027
Application	Senior School
Staff Responsibility	Deputy Head (Academic)

General Principles

Homework is an integral part of learning at King Edward's School and is set to consolidate, extend and enrich classroom learning while developing pupils' independence, organisation and study skills. It may take the form of revision for a test, note-taking, essay writing, preparing a presentation, drawing or designing, to name but a few. All departments set homework on a regular basis according to the published homework timetables, aiming to stimulate and inspire further learning. Pupils are expected to note down specific homework requirements in their planner and to ensure that work is completed by the due date. The task is also placed on the VLE by the teacher in order for the pupil and their parents to be able to view it at home (Teams Assignments is also used for Sixth Form). As with classwork, pupils should take pride when handing in homework in a job well done. Late, incomplete or carelessly undertaken homework without a reasonable explanation is not acceptable and pupils can expect to be asked to do it again if this is the case. A behaviour referral should also be given on SIMS by the class teacher in these cases.

Reasonable adjustments will be made to homework expectations where appropriate to support pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities, in liaison with the Learning Support and pastoral teams.

Frequency of Homework

As a general rule, pupils will receive one homework each week for each subject in Years 8 to 11. For Year 7, the usual level is one per fortnight, with the exception of Maths, English and MFL, which get one per week (of a shorter length for MFL) to reflect the core nature of these subjects. Year 7 need time to learn appropriate study habits and so the level of homework is less. A reasonable amount of time to complete the task(s) set should be given. In some cases, this may be a few days or even a week or longer and pupils should organise their time appropriately to ensure an even spread of work throughout the week.

Length of homework

In Years 7 and 8, each homework will last 25-30 minutes. Pupils are therefore expected to complete, on average, 1¼ - 1½ hours homework per night. This pattern is repeated in Year 9, although homework may be slightly longer and an average of 1½ - 1¾ hours per night can be expected. In Years 10 and 11, each subject has two homework slots per fortnight of about 40 minutes each. Pupils can therefore expect around 1 ½ to 2 hours homework per night during their GCSE years. Clearly, these are guidelines and individual pupils might take longer to complete a specific task, or be quicker. Pupils in Years 7-9 are given a homework timetable at the start of the academic year and should transfer homework schedules to their planners.

In the Sixth Form, the setting of homework, whilst perhaps even more important to academic success than lower down the school, is a less structured affair so that teachers have the flexibility to set longer tasks and to match the timing of work to the structure of the course. On average, pupils can expect to receive 4 – 5 hours homework per subject per week and should, therefore, be aiming to do around 15 – 16 hours work each week outside of normal teaching.

Deadlines will generally be longer than in Upper School and pupils will be expected to manage their time carefully, including, of course, making appropriate use of private study time in school. This approach is designed to support the transition to higher education and to encourage pupils to manage their learning with increasing autonomy.

Parental Support

We do not expect the direct involvement of parents/guardians in their child's homework, as can be the case in a primary setting, but we do hope that parents will take a close interest in their child's homework and that they will contact the Form Tutor or Subject Teacher in the first instance if they have any concerns. Pupils do homework in different places and at different times and what works well for one may not necessarily work for another, but they should never forget that the highest standards of homework are expected at all times.

A homework timetable is produced for Years 7-11 each year and is stored on the VLE for teachers, pupils and parents to follow.

Finally, it is important to remember that pupils are expected to be able to have a balance between their work, extra-curricular activities and their social time. If a pupil is spending more than the suggested amount above, we encourage parents to note on their work when they have done the requisite time, so teachers know that they have done their best.