



Updated: September 2017

WRIGHT ROBINSON COLLEGE HOMEWORK POLICY

INTRODUCTION

It is recognised that homework can make an important contribution to the learning process and contributes to the development of sound study habits. This is clearly understood and requested by the vast majority of our parents.

Homework is valuable for the following reasons:

- It can help pupils to make more rapid progress in learning.
- It can allow pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the constant presence of the teacher or other pupils. This way of working is vital at the later stages of secondary education and after.
- Work at home can provide the quiet and private conditions needed for work of all kinds.
- It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom.
- It can allow pupils to use materials and other sources of information that are not always available in the classroom.
- It can involve parents and others in the pupils' work for their mutual benefit.
- It can give opportunities for long term research and other work.
- It can form an important part of the pupil's notes.
- It gives pupils valuable experience of working to deadlines.
- It forms a link with the methods of study crucial to success at Secondary School.

POLICY

It is the policy at Wright Robinson College to set and mark homework. It is also the policy of the College to advise and guide pupils to complete their homework.

The type, frequency and duration of the homework is controlled by two variables:

1. a whole school requirement, with advice on its duration
2. departmental requirements embodied in its Schemes of Work

PROCESS

Homework will be implemented according to the following guidelines and recorded in Planners issued at the beginning of the academic year:

1. Though precision is not possible, the duration of homework is expected to be approximately:
 - Years 7, 8 and 9 20 to 30 minutes per item set
 - Years 10 and 11 40 minutes to 1 hour per item set

2. It is understood that these times are a guide and that, on occasions, it will be inappropriate to set homework.
3. Pupils in Year 7 will be given manageable pieces of homework during their first few weeks at the school. This will require shorter/simpler pieces of work to be set at first that will become increasingly long and more difficult. Pupils should be offered guidance to help them to manage their homework.
4. In Years 9-11, the demands of the external syllabus govern the type, complexity and frequency of the Homework.
5. Planners should be used to record homework. Subject teachers should ensure that all pupils note their homework in their planners before leaving the room. Best practice is to write the task and deadline on the board for pupils to copy. If planners are lost or poorly treated the pupil will be expected to pay for a new one. Parents and the Form Tutor should sign the planner on a fortnightly basis.
6. Subject teachers should set and mark homework in accordance with departmental policy.
7. Each Head of Faculty has the responsibility for ensuring that subject teachers set and mark homework regularly. Suggested homework activities will be incorporated into each subject's scheme of work and assessment criteria and should form part of the continuous assessment of pupil's performance and progress.
8. Written homework should be marked promptly and returned to the pupil within a reasonable time. Positive feedback to pupils should be the objective with comments assuming as much importance as the mark or grade given. A learning homework should be tested, in appropriate ways, soon after it has been set.
9. Homework tasks must be differentiated in both content and lengths to be appropriate to the age and ability of the child.

PROCEDURE

- The nature of the homework will vary between year groups, different classes and topics of study.
- We aim to return marked homework to the pupils as soon as possible, for inclusion in that topic of work and whilst the exercise is fresh in the pupil's mind.
- Each homework may involve some or elements of all of the following:
 - watching a T.V. programme
 - carrying out a project. This may involve research, collection of information for an individual or group project, sometimes by using the
 - observing/recording
 - making a model to exemplify an item of work. This often involves the whole family in the discussion, e.g. a musical instrument, circuit games, digestive system
 - completing an exercise to practice, enforce or apply aspects of the class work, e.g. writing up practical work.
- The task selected by the class teacher is commensurate with the ability of the pupils.

- Support is given prior to the task being set by:
 - each pupil is given a planner at the beginning of the year to record when the homework for each subject area is set and when it is due in.
 - time for the completion of homework should be realistic to the age and ability of the pupil as well as the task given.
 - instructions concerning homework are clear to everyone in the class, and that all pupils have plenty of time to copy down what is expected.
 - the aim is to mark or respond to homework regularly, and in a way that is helpful to pupils.
- Parents will be informed at key meetings of the nature and importance of their role:
 - Check that homework details are filled in clearly and regularly in the Planner. There is space for their regular signature.
 - Help their child organise his or her time to best advantage so that things are not all left to the last minute or even forgotten.
 - Try to make sure that there are suitable working conditions at home.
 - Take a positive and active interest in their child's work at home rather than just insisting that it is done.
 - Let the school know if there are problems with homework that cannot be resolved. Perhaps their child seems to be doing too much, or not enough, or is finding it too easy or too difficult.

Deployment of the effective homework monitoring strategy.

If a student fails to hand in a piece of homework, the member of staff who has issued the homework will give the student an opportunity to hand in this work again. If the student again fails to hand the homework in he/she will be issued with a H1. This is logged on the system by the member of staff concerned.

Once 5 H1 codes are accrued the student will be issued with a lunch time homework detention (1:15 – 1:45) where they will complete the outstanding homework(s). The student will be provided with a letter and one will be sent home to parents / carers to inform them of the lunchtime homework detention.

A student will return to the detention every lunch time until all the outstanding pieces of homework are completed to an acceptable standard. If students arrive without the homework concerned, they will be expected to read silently for the full detention.

If a student fails to attend the initial or subsequent lunchtime detention or behaves in an unacceptable manner they will be issued with an after-school H3 detention.

This will mean that the student will now automatically be issued with an after College detention supervised by one or more of the Academic Mentoring team. Under normal circumstances the College will attempt to facilitate the detention two days after the H3 has been issued. However, it is important to state that in law the College are not obliged to provide any notice in relation to a detention being issued and in some situations it may be that a “no notice detention” will be issued. Where notice is given the student will be issued with a letter informing them of the exact date when the detention is due to take place.

Once a H3 has been issued this cannot be changed.

H3 detentions run from **3:15pm** until **4pm**.

Should students arrive a few minutes late they will at the very least make the time up at the end of the detention. However, if they are more than fifteen minutes late or are continually late he/she may be issued with another H3.

If students talk or display negative behaviour during the detention they will be issued with a warning. Should they fail to modify their behaviour they will be issued with a C3 in line with the College's behaviour for learning policy.

Homework sanctions system

5 H1 (homework codes) generates a lunchtime detention.

Where students continue to accrue homework codes, and there is no improvement, parents/ carers will be contacted to reinforce the importance of homework at the College. Students may also be placed on monitoring report for at least two weeks to an appropriate member of staff.

Subsequent meetings with Parents /Carers will also take place as appropriate.

Approved by the Governing Body: