



Blanche Nevile School

Homework Policy - Secondary

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Statement of intent

At Blanche Nevile Secondary Department, we believe that homework plays an important role in education while recognising that students also benefit from experiences and opportunities outside of school that enrich their lives. We are committed to ensuring homework is purposeful, balanced, and consistent across the school, while remaining tailored to the needs and abilities of individual pupils.

Research shows that parental involvement is closely linked with improved long-term outcomes for Deaf children. We therefore value the role of parents and carers as partners in their child's learning, and aim to provide clear guidance and communication about homework expectations.

This policy aims to:

- Provide a consistent and well-balanced approach to homework across the school.
- Clarify the responsibilities of teaching staff, parents/carers, and pupils.
- Encourage students to develop independence, self-discipline, and effective study skills.
- Reinforce and extend learning beyond the classroom through practice, revision, and independent research.
- Support the completion of coursework and preparation for assessments.
- Strengthen the partnership between home and school by keeping parents informed and involved in their child's learning.
- Use homework as a tool to raise attainment and deepen understanding of knowledge, skills, and concepts taught in lessons.

Homework is set according to each pupil's needs and abilities. It will be recorded in the pupil's homework diary and marked in line with the school's Marking Policy. Students are expected to follow the Fortismere homework timetable for subjects taught at Fortismere, and the Blanche Nevile timetable for subjects taught within Blanche Nevile.

1. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to all relevant statutory and good practice guidance including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (2019) 'Ways to reduce workload in your school(s)'
- Ofsted (2025) 'School inspection: toolkit, operating guides and information'
- Ofsted (2025) 'School monitoring operating guide for inspectors'

This policy operates in conjunction with the following school policies:

- Marking and Feedback Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Attendance and Absence Policy
- AI and Homework Policy

2. Roles and responsibilities

The Co-Headteachers and governing board will be responsible for:

- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy.
- Reviewing this policy annually and making appropriate updates as required.
- Discussing with staff the extent to which this policy is being implemented.
- Meeting with parents and discussing the impact of homework as appropriate.
- Providing parents with information about homework.
- Informing new parents about the policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of inclusivity and accessibility of homework.

Heads of departments will be responsible for:

- Ensuring all members of staff within their department are aware of the school's Homework Policy.
- Monitoring the effectiveness of this policy within their department and reporting their findings back to the Co-Headteachers.
- Answering any queries that teaching staff have regarding this policy and the school's practices.

Teachers will be responsible for:

- Planning and setting up a regular programme of homework for pupils.
- Providing an explanation of homework tasks and ensuring that all students understand what they have to do.
- Ensuring all homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum.
- Setting homework that is appropriate to pupils' abilities.
- Monitoring homework regularly and making sure students are completing it.
- Marking homework and giving feedback to pupils.
- Communicating with parents if there is a problem regarding homework.
- Being available to parents and students for a discussion about homework.

- Setting homework that is consistent across classes.
- Ensuring homework takes equal opportunities into account
- Rewarding quality work and praising students who regularly complete homework.

Parents will be responsible for:

- Supporting and encouraging their child with regards to completing homework.
- Becoming involved in their child's homework and encouraging their child to have a positive attitude towards it.
- Making sure that their child completes homework to a high standard and on time.
- Providing suitable conditions and resources for their child to complete homework.
- Informing teachers of any issues that may arise and co-operating with the school to find a solution.
- Keeping the school informed of any change in circumstances which may affect their child's learning and ability to complete homework effectively.
- Encouraging their child to discuss homework and feedback from teachers.

Students will be responsible for:

- Taking responsibility for their own learning and submitting completed work in a timely manner.
- Having a positive approach towards homework.
- Putting the same effort into homework as class work.
- Making sure they understand the tasks that have been set and seeking clarification if required.
- Ensuring that they have everything they need to complete homework and returning to school all books and stationery needed to complete their homework.
- Taking pride in the presentation and content of their homework and performing to the best of their abilities.

3. The school's approach to homework

The school understands that setting, marking and providing feedback on homework is a large contributor to the workload of teachers; therefore, teachers will ensure that homework is only set to positively impact pupils' progress.

Prior to homework being set, teachers will ask themselves, 'Why am I setting this homework?' and 'How will this homework be useful to the pupil?' If the answers to these questions do not reflect a positive impact on pupils' learning, teachers will use their professional judgement and decide whether the homework is necessary.

Homework tasks will often include retrieval practice, as this is proven to strengthen memory, deepen understanding, and support long-term learning. By encouraging students to actively recall knowledge rather than simply reviewing it, retrieval practice helps them become more confident and independent learners.

Homework may be set on paper or uploaded to an online platform, Google Classroom. Your child should have their login details recorded in their homework diary. Google Classroom can be accessed by both students and parents (contact the school if you wish to be added as a guardian).

SLT will communicate the school's approach to homework to families at the start of every academic year.

Teachers will explain the school's approach to homework to parents at the parents' evening in November.

Every term, each year group will be informed of what is expected of them with regards to homework.

The curriculum information for the year is also displayed on the website for parents' carers to access and be updated with their child's learning journey.

Students will use homework diaries books to record their homework and may be issued with a homework folder to keep their homework neat and organised.

Students will receive homework on a weekly basis which will be returned at the time and date as specified by the teacher.

Homework will be marked every week and returned to the pupil, and kept in their class books, if appropriate to the subject.

Parents will be encouraged to support their child with their homework. If they have any queries, they should contact the school to get in touch with the teacher. Feedback from parents about their child's homework will also be welcomed by the school.

Parents will be informed about the school's stance on AI, enabling them to guide their children on its appropriate use. The school will emphasise the significance of original homework submissions, the risks associated with AI tools, and potential repercussions of misuse. More information can be found in the AI and Homework Policy

The amount of homework set for students will increase as they progress through their education. Teachers will occasionally set extra homework for the whole class if they deem it beneficial.

The table below shows expected homework. Tasks may be set in addition to the below activities.

Year	Subject	Frequency
Year 7	Reading	Weekly books*
	Core: English, Maths, Science	X 1 a week per subject
	Non-Core: Humanities, Art, BSL, Computing, Technology, PSD, Drama	X 1 a fortnight
Year 8	Reading	Weekly books*
	Core: English, Maths, Science	X 1 a week per subject
	Non-Core: Humanities, Art, BSL, Computing, Technology, PSD, Drama	X 1 a fortnight per subject

Year 9	Reading	Weekly books*
	Core: English, Maths, Science	X 1 a week per subject
	Non-Core: Humanities, Art, BSL, Computing, Technology, PSD, Drama	X 1 a fortnight per subject
Year 10	Reading	Weekly books*
	Core: English, Maths, Science	X 2 a week per subject
	KS4 options	X 2 a week per subject
	Non-Core: Humanities, Art, BSL, Computing, Technology, PSD, Drama	X 1 a fortnight per subject
Year 11	Reading	Weekly books*
	Core: English, Maths, Science	X 2 a week per subject
	KS4 options	X 2 a week per subject
	Non-Core: Humanities, Art, BSL, Computing, Technology, PSD, Drama	X 1 a fortnight per subject

4. Absences

If a student is absent from school due to illness or medical reasons, the school will not supply work for these periods – students should be well enough to undertake any work supplied.

There may be exceptions to the above and the classroom teacher will decide whether homework should be set on a case-by-case basis.

If a student is absent for a long period of time, the teacher and the parents of the student will agree on what should be done and how much help should be provided.

Catch-up support will be provided to absent students in order to help them catch-up with homework.

Absences when homework is set and due will be managed in line with the school's Attendance and Absence Policy.

5. Students who fail to complete homework

All students will be expected to complete homework on time.

Teachers will keep records of students completing homework which are regularly checked.

If students fail to complete homework, teachers will contact parents to find what the reason for this is.

Teachers will make efforts to support students who are struggling to complete homework and will raise any concerns regarding their pupils' ability to complete homework to the pastoral teacher and/or parents as appropriate.

Students who refuse to complete homework will be disciplined in line with the Behaviour Policy.

6. Marking homework

Homework will be marked in accordance with the school's Marking and Feedback Policy.

In general, homework will be marked in detail in writing and comments will be made concerning the pupil's next steps.

7. Equal opportunities

The school will ensure that it provides the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, sex, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity and social, cultural or religious background.

All students will have equal access and inclusive rights to the curriculum regardless of their gender, race, disability or ability.

8. Monitoring and review

This policy is reviewed annually by the Co-Headteachers.

Any updates to this policy will be shared with parents, students and staff.

The scheduled review date for this policy is Autumn 2026.