

Belfast Model School for Girls

Achievement for All



Homework Policy

Agreed by Board of Governors: Jan 2007

To be reviewed: Jan 2009

Rationale

Homework can take the form of a variety of activities including written exercises, essays, learning tasks, personal research and reading. The Belfast Model School for Girls aims to provide experiences for each pupil which promote independence and a sense of responsibility, both of which are important for life in a changing world.

Purposes

In this school we strive to encourage independent learning in our pupils and develop their ability to study effectively. Through homework tasks pupils have opportunities:

- To consolidate and extend their learning
- To practise and become confident in using skills, including ICT
- To carry out individual research, including ICT based research
- To develop their independence and initiative
- To manage their time and work to deadlines
- To develop organisational skills
- To improve their skills of presentation, including ICT

Homework also provides opportunities for parents to become more involved in their daughter's education and make a useful contribution to her academic development.

Guidelines

- Homework tasks are set in accordance with the ability and maturity of pupils across all year groups
- Year Heads are responsible, in consultation with HODs, for devising each year group's Homework Timetable (except Years 13/14)
- The homework timetable reflects the need to ensure that appropriate balance is achieved across Areas of Study and across types of homework and that suggested times are suited to the ability and maturity of the pupil
- Pupils in Years 13 and 14 are usually required to regulate their own homework timetables
- Copies of relevant homework timetables are distributed annually to teachers, pupils and parents
- Pupils are required to submit homeworks by the deadlines agreed between teachers and pupils
- In the absence of an acceptable explanation, pupils failing to complete homework in time are subject to appropriate school sanctions, as outline in the Behaviour Management Policy
- Each pupil is supplied with a Year Planner to assist in the recording of homework and other tasks
- The assessment of homework supports the school's policy on Assessment for Learning.
- GCSE (and equivalent) coursework assignments constitute a significant proportion of homework tasks in some subjects at Key Stage 4
- The school organises an After School Club, staffed by members of the teaching and Learning Support staff, to assist pupils with homework tasks and promote good study skills

- Teachers are encouraged to provide positive and constructive feedback on homework assignments to inform future learning

These policy Guidelines are translated into action through other policies and procedures, for example:

Curriculum Policy

Discipline Policy

Teaching and Learning Policies

Assessment Policies

Special Needs Policy

Rewards Policy