

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Homework Policy



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1. The Role and Value of Homework

Homework is an integral part of the learning process. It encourages independent learning by enabling our students to take ownership of, and responsibility for, their progress.

Homework helps to develop important skills in each learner, as it requires effective time management, high levels of personal organisation, self-discipline and the development of a positive attitude to learning.

Homework also reinforces the partnership between teachers, students, parents and carers. Parents and carers are encouraged to take an active role in the process. If concerns arise about homework, students or their parents and carers are encouraged to speak with the Form Class Teacher in the first instance.

2. The Nature of Homework

Homework tasks, which are embedded in the scheme of work, are differentiated and appropriate for the age group and ability levels of students. They are designed to be meaningful and challenging. Tasks may be singular and discrete or form part of an ongoing project over a period of weeks, such as coursework. Rarely should homework be dedicated to 'finishing off' tasks started in class.

There are three main types of homework:

- **Preparation:** tasks that require students to draft work; to take notes; to deepen and broaden their knowledge of the subject through research and background reading; or to prepare materials for the next lesson;
- **Extension:** tasks that require problem-solving, the handling of evidence investigation, evaluation or creativity;
- **Practice:** tasks that enable students to consolidate their knowledge, to practise subject-specific skills, to learn by rote or to revise.

Moreover, in certain subjects the equivalent time allocation for homework will be required for practical work or rehearsal in school.

When appropriate, homework also allows teachers to use online activities to facilitate learning outside the classroom.

3. Setting and Recording

Homework can be set in any lesson of the week. Sufficient time is given for its completion. The due date will not be the next day.

Teachers are encouraged to use an online platform to support their groups, including the provision of homework instructions and deadlines. Students also use the planner to record important information.

Scrutiny of the setting and recording of homework forms part of the ongoing evaluation of teaching and learning in the College, as conducted by Subject Leaders and the Senior Leadership Team.

4. Assessment

Homework forms an important part of the body of work used to assess the progress of each individual student. The assessment of homework is covered by the College's Assessment and Reporting Policy.

Additional support and guidance, above and beyond the usual feedback, will be provided or recommended, such as attendance at a revision session or Homework Club.