

Policy Title: Homework Policy	Effective Date:	July 2024
LT Member Responsible: Andy Symes	Review Date:	July 2026
Governors' Committee Responsible: Quality of Education		

1. Rationale

- 1.1 Homework plays a valuable role in each learner's education. When set appropriately, studies in secondary schools showed that homework had a positive impact of +5 months ([EEF, 2021](#)). Research suggests that homework should relate to the intended curriculum, be integrated into schemes of learning, and provide high-quality feedback to students.
- 1.2 Faculty leaders need to take into consideration the 'active' ingredients of homework, including:
- Considering the quality of homework over the quantity.
 - Using well-designed tasks that are linked to classroom learning.
 - Clearly setting out the aims of homework to pupils.
 - Understanding and addressing any barriers to completion, such as access to a learning device or resources.
 - Explicitly teaching independent learning strategies.
 - Providing high-quality feedback to improve pupil learning.
 - Monitoring the impact of homework on pupil engagement, progress and attainment.

2. Objectives

- 2.1 To set regular homework, in line with the school's homework calendar, that primarily focuses on improving memory and knowledge retrieval, achieved through low-stakes quizzing ([Karpicke, J. & Blunt, J. 2011](#)).
- 2.2 Homework for KS3 should be no longer than 20 minutes in length.
- 2.3 Homework for KS4 should be no longer than 50 minutes in length.
- 2.4 Ensure that all homework is diarised, and its completion is recorded on the ePraise platform. This will provide transparency for students and parent carers. Additionally, it will help students to better manage their time and commitments.
- 2.5 Set questions that facilitate spaced retrieval of key knowledge, facts, and skills to ensure that students can remember the powerful knowledge of the intended curriculum ([Ebbinghaus, 1885](#)).
- 2.6 Ensure that technology is used appropriately regarding homework to set, mark, and provide feedback. This approach will reduce teacher workload, and simultaneously provide data for teachers to focus on planning and implementing excellent teaching in lessons ([Department for Education, 2023](#)).
- 2.7 Ensure that parents and carers are best able to support their children with their homework.

3. Homework Calendar

		Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Key Stage 3	Week 1	English Geography	ICT* PE**	Mathematics Languages	Science History	PSRE* Drama*
	Week 2	English Art	DT Music	Mathematics Languages	Science Dance*	
Key Stage 4	Weeks 1 and 2	English Option A	PE Option B	Mathematics Option C	Science Option D	PSRE*

* Homework will be set less frequently for this subject

** Homework will be set at the end of units of study for this subject

4. Monitoring and Quality Assurance

- 4.1 It is the responsibility of the subject teacher to set homework on ePraise in line with the homework calendar, and objectives outlined above. Any deviation of this approach from a Faculty should be agreed in advance with the leadership team colleague with responsibility for homework.
- 4.2 Students who score over 80% and/or demonstrate an appropriate level of commitment to tasks that have been set will receive an ePraise merit.
- 4.3 Students who fail to score over 80% and/or fail to demonstrate an appropriate level of commitment to tasks that have been set will receive an ePraise demerit.
- 4.4 Heads of Faculty will ensure the consistency of the homework set, along with the completion rates. This will be achieved through the monitoring of data held on ePraise.
- 4.5 Heads of Faculty will offer support to students who struggle to complete homework.
- 4.6 Tutors will support pupils and help monitor their overall approach to and successful completion of their homework.
- 4.7 The leadership team member with responsibility for homework will oversee the monitoring and quality assurance process and ensure that all staff are clear of their responsibilities and expectations placed upon them.
- 4.8 More detailed guidance for the implementation of this policy can be found in the annual Sheldon School Staff Handbook. The guidelines are subject to regular evaluation.

5. References

Education Endowment Foundation (2021) – Teaching and Learning Toolkit - Homework

Department for Education (2023) - Generative artificial intelligence (AI) in education

Ebbinghaus (1885) - Über das Gedächtnis

Karpicke & Blunt (2011) - Retrieval Practice Produces More Learning than Elaborative Studying with Concept Mapping