



# Torquay Girls Grammar School

## Homework Policy

Policy Information	
<b>Policy Owner</b>	Zoe Carpenter-Kay
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<b>Approving Committee</b>	SLT
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\*Appendix 1 Version Control Amendments Table

## Introduction

Research has shown that the setting of homework for Secondary School students is a benefit to their learning. However, there is a wide variation in potential impact, suggesting that how homework is set is very important.

Evidence suggests homework is most effective when it is short, focused, and closely linked to classroom learning, with high-quality feedback provided.

Studies imply there is an optimum amount of homework of between 1 and 2 hours per school day, with diminishing returns beyond this.

## Why should students receive homework?

- Research evidence shows that students make better progress by completing homework
- Students develop correct study habits
- Teachers gain wider evidence of progress and achievement
- Enables preparation and enrichment of classroom learning
- Strengthens partnership between school, students, and parents

## Types of Homework Tasks

Homework tasks may include:

- Preparation for future learning
- Wider reading
- Structured questions
- Vocabulary learning
- Projects
- Research
- Essays
- Creative tasks
- Online homework
- Revision
- Exam questions

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## Homework Setting Practice

**All homework must be set on Arbor by all staff.**

Homework should not be set overnight. The school recognises the value of extra-curricular participation in supporting pupils' wider personal development; however, it also acknowledges the need for pupils to maintain a manageable workload. Excessive or poorly timed homework can place unnecessary pressure on pupils, particularly those with significant additional commitments. Parents and staff are expected to work in partnership to support pupils in managing their responsibilities and to ensure that concerns are identified and addressed promptly.

The minimum amount of time that a teacher should give a student to complete homework is 5 working days.

There is no expectation that homework will be set in every lesson. Teachers are expected to exercise professional judgement when determining whether homework is appropriate. Therefore, where homework is set, it should be purposeful, proportionate and aligned with curriculum intent. Teachers should make effective use of a range of homework activities, and it would be unusual for homework not to be set over a sequence of lessons.

The tables below set out the recommended allocation of homework time per fortnight for each year group. These allocations provide guidance for staff while recognising that pupils work at different paces. Teachers should communicate clear expectations regarding the anticipated duration of tasks and the success criteria of the task and routinely seek pupil feedback. This guidance is also intended to support parents and pupils; where homework consistently exceeds the recommended time, this should be communicated to the teacher so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

### Year 7

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)	Homework time per subject per fortnight (minutes)
Maths and English	7	75 minutes
Science	6	60 minutes
MFL	4	45 minutes
History, Geography, RS, Computer Science & Art	3	30 minutes
Drama & Music	2	30 minutes
Food and Nutrition	1	30 minutes

This equates to 495 minutes a fortnight which is approximately 50 minutes a school day. (Mon-Fri)

### Year 8

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)	Homework time per subject per fortnight (minutes)
Maths, English & Science	6	75 minutes
French, Spanish & German	4	45 minutes
History, Geography, RS & Art	3	30 minutes
Drama, Music and Computer Science	2	30 minutes
Food and Nutrition	1	30 minutes

This equates to 555 minutes a fortnight which is approximately 55 minutes a school day. (Mon-Fri)

### Year 9

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)	Homework time per subject per fortnight (minutes)
Maths, English	6	90 minutes
Chemistry, Biology, Physics	6	30 minutes
French, Spanish & German	4	45 minutes
History, Geography, RS & Art	3	45 minutes
Drama, Music and Computer Science	2	30 minutes
Food and Nutrition	1	30 minutes

This equates to 660 minutes a fortnight which is approximately 65 minutes a school day. (Mon-Fri)

### Year 10

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)	Homework time per subject per fortnight (minutes)
Maths and English	7	120 minutes
Chemistry, Biology, Physics (Double)	2	60 minutes
Option Subjects (including triple science)	5	90 minutes
RS	2	30 minutes

This equates to 810 minutes a fortnight which is approximately 80 minutes a school day. (Mon-Fri)

### Year 11

Subjects	Teaching time per fortnight (hours)	Homework time per fortnight (minutes)
Maths and English	7	120 minutes
Chemistry, Biology, Physics (Double)	2	60 minutes
Option Subjects (including triple science)	5	90 minutes

This equates to 780 minutes a fortnight which is approximately 80 minutes a school day. (Mon-Fri). This does not include revision for GCSE exams.

## Years 12 and 13

In Sixth Form (KS5), the nature of homework differs from that in the main school, reflecting students' increased maturity and responsibility for their own learning. While there may at times be less specific direction about work to be completed outside of lessons, students should still expect teachers to set homework tasks with clear deadlines that must be met. In addition, Sixth Form students are expected to undertake a significant amount of independent study: work that supports their courses but is not always explicitly directed by staff. This may include consolidating notes, wider reading, completing practice questions, and reviewing feedback.

Students are expected to use their study periods effectively, alongside some evenings and weekend time, to manage this workload. Where students find it difficult to manage their workload, they are encouraged to seek support from subject teachers and/or their Head of Year.