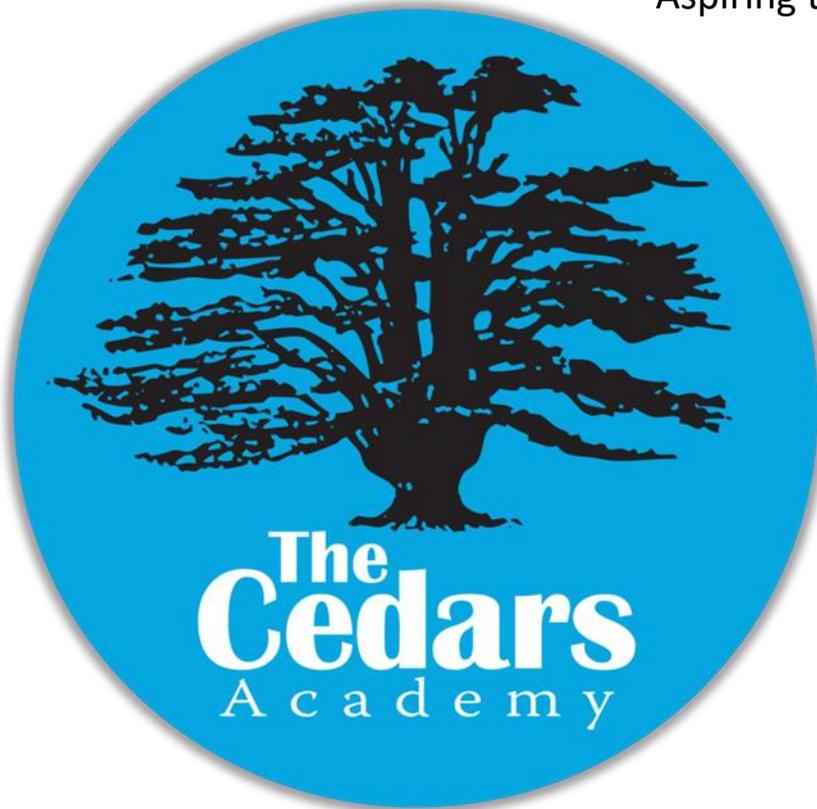


Aspiring to excellence



THE
CEDARS
ACADEMY

HOMEWORK POLICY

'Homework should be purposeful, challenging and extend learning beyond the classroom.'



What is Homework?

Homework is any work or activity which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers. Homework is an important part of raising achievement for pupils, consolidating what has been learnt in class and developing their ability.

As an Academy we recognise that it serves a number of useful functions:

- To encourage pupils to develop the confidence and self-discipline to work on their own, in order to become independent learners, as well as develop their individual skills
- To give pupils opportunities for in-depth and extended work
- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding
- To extend Academy learning, for example through additional reading
- To enable pupils to devote time to particular demanding pieces of work that are linked heavily to their progress within subjects
- To support the home/Academy relationship by enhancing the dialogue about learning at home and not just at the Academy.

The amount of Homework

The Cedars Academy does not have a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. Pupils will need to learn to manage their time by using ShowMyHomework and the planners provided, so that they do some homework each evening and when it is set. Teachers will not usually set homework to be completed for the next day and will give pupils adequate time to complete the homework.

Pupils in year 7 should work 30 minutes, on average, every night.

Pupils in year 8 should work 45 minutes on average, every night.

Pupils in year 9 should work 1 hour, on average, every night.

Year 10 and 11 students should work an hour to an hour and a half every night.

Homework in Post 16 will be dependent on individual pupil programmes. However, pupils in years 12 and 13 are expected to devote approximately five hours per week outside lessons to each subject. Pupils are encouraged in addition to read as widely as possible around their chosen subjects to broaden their knowledge, through agreed reading lists within each area.

Homework will be differentiated, where necessary, to take into account individual needs and will be challenging and relevant to each course. Homework, when set and collected in, should be marked in line with the whole Academy effective feedback policy.

All homework should be set on our online resource ShowMyHomework. Staff will also encourage KS3 pupils to use their planners to record homework. Parents / Carers can access ShowMyHomework and if they require their password and login can contact The Cedars Academy for this.



Types of Homework and how they can be marked / written feedback on progress

Homework tasks set should attempt to reinforce or extend learning taking place. As far as possible, teachers should **avoid** using Homework to complete work done in class or for 'catching up'.

Some types of Homework that can be set	Ways it may be marked / written feedback
Writing assignments	Peer assessment, use of a specification check list, formal grade from teacher
Preparing an oral presentation	On-going through starters perhaps, hard copy of presentation handed in and marked, peer observations, videoing of presentation
Reading in preparation for a lesson with allocated notes	Pupils sharing their notes with peers and with the teacher. Certain notes to be formally marked to ensure key terms and definitions and understanding are being written down correctly
Researching for a specific project	Through the marking of the project, but to check research is happening via the strategies of teaching and learning
Revising for a specific test	The marks from the test
Online tasks via SAM learning and My Maths - these should be used at appropriate learning points and not be exhausted.	Via the online instant feedback

It is important that pupils should have frequent and increasing opportunities to develop and consolidate their competencies as independent learners and the types of homework that can be set need to be varied and linked to the learning styles of our pupils where appropriate.

Organisation of Homework

All pupils have a personal planner, which they should carry with them at all times to record their homework. They should also download on their phones the app ShowMyHomework and use the Cedars website to log on. Tutors and parents / carers are asked to check and sign these once a week. Through our tutoring programme planners will be checked by tutors to identify areas where homework is set appropriately and to inform the faculty leaders where interventions need to take place.

Non-completion of Homework

When homework has not been done, appropriate action will be taken by the subject teacher and faculty. After a day's 'grace', failure to hand in work will result in a break or lunchtime detention. Failure to complete homework after this becomes a behaviour incident of defiance and may ultimately, result in pupils attending an SLT led after-school detention.

Academy responsibilities

The subject teacher is responsible for setting appropriate and regular homework on ShowMyHomework and marking it regularly. Teachers should check that pupils are recording details of homework set in their organisers. Faculty Leaders and Subject Leaders are responsible for ensuring that all teachers in their faculty are setting appropriate homework regularly and marking it in line with the agreed homework and effective feedback policy. The logging of homework and evidence of the types of homework set will form part of the whole Academy monitoring and evaluation.

**Parents' / Carers' role in Homework**

- Parents / carers should support pupils with their homework but accept that their role will become less and less important as the student becomes more responsible and independent
- Parents / carers should utilise the ShowMyHomework online resource to see homework that has been set
- Parents / carers access areas on our website in order to identify topics being taught therefore encouraging dialogue with their child
- Parents / carers should try and provide a reasonable place where pupils can work or encourage them to make use of the school's facilities
- Parents / carers should encourage pupils to meet homework deadlines
- If parents / carers feel that insufficient or too much homework is being set, they should contact the tutor via email who will investigate the situation
- Parents / carers should make it clear to pupils that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them to progress
- Parents / carers should encourage pupils and praise them when homework is completed
- Parents / carers to remind their child to catch up on any work missed due to absence especially if homework has been set in their absence.
- Parents / carers support the school policy on detentions, when pupils fail repeatedly to hand in homework and could encourage pupils to make use of the homework club if they feel their child needs extra support.

Pupils' responsibilities

- Pupils should always carry their planners with them and have pride in doing their best and strive to achieve their best in each piece of work
- Pupils should record the homework set even if they have written it in detail in their exercise book or put it into reminders in their phones
- Pupils need to accept that deadlines must be kept and if not, accept the appropriate punishment set by the faculty areas, such as a detention
- If pupils are absent, they need to find out what work has been missed and catch up on it. **Being away on the day that homework is set is not an excuse for not doing it as it is easily accessible on ShowMyHomework**
- Problems with homework should be resolved before the deadline. If necessary pupils should see the member of staff concerned for help.