

**BANCHORY ACADEMY
HOMEWORK POLICY**



SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS

How can Homework help pupils?

Homework is an important part of school work at Banchory Academy and can benefit pupils in a number of ways such as

- training for pupils in planning and organising time
- developing good habits and self discipline
- encouraging ownership and responsibility for learning
- providing information for parents
- providing opportunities for parental co-operation and support
- creating channels for home-school dialogue
- allowing practice and consolidation of work done in class
- allowing preparation for future classwork
- allowing assessment of pupils' progress and mastery of work
- providing evidence for the evaluation of teaching
- providing opportunities for creating and individualised work
- developing skills in using libraries and other learning resources
- offering access to resources not available in school

What sort of Homework exercises should your child be doing?

All pupils are given a diary planner in which to record homework tasks and assessment dates.

There are various types of work which pupils are expected to undertake at home e.g.

1. Written exercises – set by the teacher to consolidate work done in class.
2. Project work/Investigation tasks – usually done over a longer time period and open ended, allowing pupils to follow up interests and enthusiasms.
3. Reading – fiction or non-fiction. To find information or for pleasure.
4. Revision – preparing for an assessment or examination. This may be a written paper, a practical exam, a talk or a speaking test.
5. Research – where information requires to be gathered in order to complete a specific task.
6. Finishing off work started in class.

When is the best time for Homework or Study?

Again, at whatever time suits the individual, but it is certainly advantageous to quickly establish a routine. Some pointers to sensible homework management include

1. Plan homework or study at regular times. Agree a time which suits your child best and stick to it.
2. Several shorter sessions are better than working late on the night before the homework is due.
3. Time should be set aside for homework most nights but some times of the week should be set aside for other activities. To many pupils homework on Friday night and Saturday is unthinkable!
4. The homework diary should be used to PLAN the work to be done each night.
5. Avoid leaving everything until the last minute.

How can parents support their child's studies?

The most important thing you can do is simply to take an interest in your child's work. Apart from assisting by establishing a good routine and providing a suitable place for homework completion you could

1. Ask what work has to be done and check the homework diary.
2. Don't send children to a room for several hours and think all problems are solved. Check regularly whether help is needed and give assistance if and when you can. Arrange for homework to be done with a friend/s if this is more effective for your child.
3. Avoid saying "I used to do it this way"... methods can change. Advise – don't teach!
4. Contact your child's Guidance Teacher as soon as problems arise or if your child regularly claims not to have any homework.
5. Above all, offer encouragement at all times.
6. Suggest ways of learning which will help with understanding e.g. get your child to make up a quiz on the homework and test someone else on that quiz.

How much time should pupils be spending on Homework?

It is not possible or desirable to set prescribed limits. The amount or duration of homework will vary from subject to subject and from pupil to pupil. The following is simply a rough guide to what, on average, is expected.

- S1/S2 - approximately 3 hours per week
- S3/S4 - a minimum of 1 hour for each Standard Grade subject i.e. approximately 8 hours per week

- S5/S6 - pupils in S5/S6 should expect a minimum of 2 hours per week per subject i.e. approximately 10 hours per week

What is the most suitable environment for completion of Homework?

Individuals have their preferences, but in general the following conditions are thought best:

1. In a warm part of the house.
2. On a flat surface, preferably a table/desk.
3. In a well lit area.
4. Away from distractions like TV, dogs, parents even!

Many children claim that they “can’t study without music on” – different conditions suit different people and, if the work is getting done, music may well help. For some, learning is a social activity and they learn better along with others – provided they stay on task.

What will happen if Homework is not completed or is unsatisfactory?

At Banchory Academy we believe that homework is a crucial part of the learning experience. It can help to raise attainment and it helps to prepare pupils for the independent work they may need to do in the future.

If a child fails to complete a homework task, the teacher will record this, offer help if required and give the pupil an extension of time to complete the task. If the homework is not completed after the extension, a homework letter will be sent to you. When a pupil repeatedly fails to return homework tasks or complete them satisfactorily, their Guidance Teacher will be informed and will contact you to discuss the problem and request your support.

What should you do if your child is having difficulty with Homework?

If your child is having difficulty in completing a particular task then advise them to ask the class teacher for help as soon as possible and certainly before the homework is due in. If you have any queries about the homework in a particular subject or if your child regularly has difficulty completing homework in that subject then you should contact the Principal Teacher concerned to discuss the matter.

If your child is having general difficulties with homework tasks that have been set in a range of subjects then you should contact their Guidance Teacher to discuss the matter.