

Herschel Grammar School Home Learning Policy

1. What is home learning

1.1. Completing work outside of lessons is essential to pupils' achievement.

At Herschel Grammar School we call this 'Home Learning'.

Home Learning allows for opportunities to consolidate and enhance what has been covered in lessons.

There will be many occasions where home learning prepares pupils for their next lessons, so completion is vital.

Home learning should challenge and provide opportunities to broaden learning and provide enrichment. It should encourage independence and develop patterns that will be beneficial for future working patterns.

2. What we expect of pupils

2.1. Pupils should be completing some form of independent work most evenings

Pupils should know exactly what they are expected to do and the date by which it is to be completed.

Pupils must write the details of the home learning in their planner.

Pupils are also encouraged to use their OneDrive calendars to help keep track of deadlines.

Pupils should be checking their school email daily.

2.2. If a pupil does not understand what is expected, he or she must ask the teacher before leaving the lesson.

In addition, pupils should make sure that they have all the books, resources and online access that is needed to complete the learning.

3. What we expect of teachers

3.1. Teachers will expect pupils to aim for the highest standards of effort, performance and presentation. Where these expectations are not met teachers will use sanctions.

3.2. Teachers will help the pupils to use their time effectively and efficiently by setting clear criteria and suggesting appropriate resources and time needed. Where appropriate feedback and direction will be given.

4. What sort of work will be set?

4.1. A wide range of tasks will be set for home learning including:

- reading
- organizing work
- research
- Sketching / drawing
- revising for tests or examinations
- problem solving exercises
- using resources from OneDrive
- uploading or collaborating to OneDrive
- preparing talks / commentaries / presentations on a given topic
- practicing skills learned in class
- improving or extending classwork
- redrafting
- reflecting on and responding to teacher feedback.
- watching / reviewing online clips

Many home learning tasks will be sent to pupils either through OneDrive or via email.

4.2. A major assignment may occupy more than one episode of learning.

Pupils should record those tasks that are to be done at home in the appropriate 'slot' in their planner.

5. Home Learning Schedule

5.1. Average Home learning per night

There will not be a published schedule of work.

However, teachers will observe the following guidelines when setting work.

Year Group	At least once per week	One a week	Fortnightly	Expected time spent per Home learning	Total number of Home Learning hours per week (approximately)
7	English Mathematics Science	MFL Design & Technology, Geography, History	Art, Computing Technology Drama, Music, Religious Studies.	30 minutes	7
8	English Mathematics Science	MFL Design & Technology Geography History	Art, Computing Technology , Drama, Music, Religious Studies.	35 minutes	8
9	English Mathematics Science Design & Technology	MFL Geography History	Art, Computing Technology, Drama, Music, Religious Studies.	40	9
Year 10 & 11	English* Mathematics* Options 1 2 3*	Sciences	Religious Studies.	45 minutes to 1.30 hour	10-15

5.2 Parents can see the home learning their child has been set by looking in the planner. If your child does not appear to be receiving the appropriate home learning, please make contact with the subject teacher. However, it is probably the case pupils are not writing it in their planners.

5.3 It cannot be emphasised too strongly that home learning is an integral part of school work and if missed, it must be caught up. If a pupil is absent through illness or a family holiday, this will mean that they will have to catch up both classwork and home learning. It is highly undesirable, therefore, for a pupil to miss school because the family wishes to take a holiday in term time.

5.4 Pupils should identify what tasks have been missed by looking in the planner of another member of their class. They should check their OneDrive groups, email and any OneDrive classroom assignments.

5.5 Pupils should record in their planner what work has been missed on the days they were absent and catch it up as soon as is possible.

6. Support for pupils

- 6.1. There are opportunities for pupils to work at Herschel before and after school each day. The library is open from 8.00 a.m. to 8.25 a.m. and the Library and is available from the end of school until 5.00 p.m. most days of the week. Computer rooms are available from 7.30 am to 8.25 a.m, break and lunchtime and from the end of school until 5.00 p.m. most days of the week.
- 6.2. When using these rooms pupils are expected to work quietly and should be using computers just for idle browsing or gameplaying.

7. Difficulties with work

- 7.1. Occasionally pupils may have difficulties with the work that has been set and the teacher will stress the need to ask for help should difficulties arise. Where appropriate teachers may feel it necessary to arrange support sessions for pupils. However, where there is evidence that home learning has not taken place or work is not handed in on time the teacher may feel it necessary to place a pupil on detention or to re-do the work if what is given in does not meet the required standard. In both instances the teacher should make a note in the pupil's planner to notify staff and parents.

8. What can I do to help my child?

8.1. We would ask you to look at your child's planner each night to find out what has been set so that you can encourage and support your child's efforts. We would ask you to check and sign the planner once a week to confirm that the correct home learning has been set and completed by your child. If you feel that too much or not enough home learning has been set please make a note of this in your child's planner for his or her form tutor's attention.

8.2. Understandably many parents feel that they cannot do a great deal to help their children with their learning and indeed we wouldn't encourage you to help them so much that you end up doing it for them! However there are several useful ways you can help. These include:

- checking the quality of the work your child intends to hand in;
- looking at the grades and teacher comments work receives and discussing these with your child;
- making a note of when tests are due and asking what mark your child received;
- testing what has been learned;
- listening to your child read completed work;
- encouraging and praising your child when the learning has been completed;
- make it clear to your child that you think home learning is important;
- asking your child to explain what he or she has been studying.

8.3. Other more general help would include allowing your child to work at his or her own pace whilst ensuring that there is time for other interests. You can also help your child organise a regular routine which allows home learning to be started while he or she is still fresh. If you do see your child sitting around with nothing to do you could always encourage him or her to look over past work to make sure it is still fully understood.

8.4. Most older children will work best in a room by themselves, but younger children sometimes need their parent's company and encouragement to help them develop good study habits.

8.5. Paid work is very useful and helps develop valuable skills. However, paid work should never impact on home learning.

8.6. Pupils should not underestimate the importance of sleep Pupils should be getting between 8 to 10 hours per night. Also pupils should avoid using electronic devices before sleep as this impacts on heavily on the body getting to sleep quickly.

9. Finally.

9.1. Home learning forms a link between home and school. We need and greatly value your support and co-operation in ensuring that learning is completed.