



L.E.A.D. Academy Trust

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# Secondary Homework Policy

**Review frequency:** Annual

**Approval:** Academy Advisory Body free to delegate to a committee of the AAB, an individual body member or the Headteacher.

## **Policy Statement**

### **Introduction**

The L.E.A.D. Academy Trust requires this policy to be implemented by all its secondary member academies.

There is an understanding that some localisation of this policy is necessary to provide a homework timetable in line with the policy but suited to the needs of the academy and its associated timetable.

Homework is an essential part of a student's education and this policy is designed to ensure consistency across our academies in terms of homework setting and marking. This policy aims to ensure that students are given the opportunity to develop specific skills, knowledge and understanding outside the classroom, without overburdening students or staff with homework and marking respectively.

Learning at home is an essential part of a good education and is an expected element of the service our academies offer. It supports the development of independent learning skills, supplements and reinforces work done in school, and provides parents and carers with an opportunity to take part in their children's education bringing home and school closer together.

### **Why is homework important?**

If a student completes an hour of homework per school night for five years ... it is the equivalent of an extra school year. In addition:

- It can help students to make rapid progress
- It can allow students to develop the practice of independent learning
- Encourage students to develop the skills, confidence and motivation to study alone
- It can allow valuable practice of skills learned in the classroom
- It can allow students to use materials and other source of information that are not always available in the classroom such as the internet, TV documentaries and news reports
- It can involve parents and carers in the students' work
- It can form an important part of the student's notes – in preparation for the next lesson
- It gives students valuable experience of working to deadlines

## **How will the homework policy work in practice?**

### **All students should:**

- Record homework tasks in their planners and ensure their understanding of the homework tasks
- Demonstrate a commitment to spending an allocated time doing the task set
- Complete all work set to the best of their ability
- Present homework appropriately
- Hand the work back on time

### **All parents/carers should:**

- Aim to provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which students can do their homework or help students to attend other places where homework can be done, such as the homework club, the library, revision session
- Make it clear to students that they value homework, and support the Academy in explaining how it can help them make progress at school
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are
- Check that tasks have been set in line with the homework timetables
- Sign the planner once a week
- Inform the academy if an issue arises

### **All teaching staff should:**

- Set regular homework according to the published homework timetables
- Ensure the students record the homework in their planners
- Be careful to ensure that homework is done regularly and ensure that adequate time is given to complete the homework, which allows them to seek help/assistance before the deadline if required
- Record any homework related issues appropriately and discuss these with the students, and the Head of Department
- Mark the homework regularly according to the Academy's marking policy

**Heads of Department (HOD) should:**

- Ensure that homework is an integral part of the curriculum and is planned as part of schemes of work and prepared alongside all other programmes of learning
- Ensure that all staff in department are following the homework policy
- Monitor the range of tasks set for homework, with the aim of keeping the workload of teachers manageable. Other strategies to achieve this objective should also be employed, such as asking students to review their own work in small groups
- Regularly monitor the information provided by your monitoring to inform appropriate intervention and support
- Inform the tutor and Head of Year of action taken

**Pastoral Leaders should:**

- Ensure all students have planners in which to record their homework and issue spare sheets in the event of a loss of planner
- Ensure that planners are checked systematically by tutors each week
- Monitor repeat offenders across subjects and take action: contact parents
- Regularly sample homework planners and report issues to HOD and SLT
- Inform parents/carers when appropriate

**Form tutors should:**

- Systematically check the planners each week, checking that parents have signed for the week's work and that tasks have been set in line with the homework timetables
- Inform the Head of Year of any problems arising from planner checks
- Speak to students in light of any comments passed on by subject teachers regarding homework to create a united approach

**Senior Leadership Team (SLT) should:**

- Undertake regular homework reviews and student monitoring. The purpose of these reviews are to enable the SLT to get an overview of a range and quality of homework set, to monitor and report on homework set for each year group
- Annually monitor and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of homework policies in consultation with teachers, parents/carers and students

Students should receive two or three pieces of homework per night depending on their teaching group. The amount of time expected to be spent on a piece of homework depends on their year group but should be no more than:

- Year 7 - 30 minutes per piece of homework
- Year 8 - 30 minutes per piece of homework
- Year 9 - 45 minutes per piece of homework
- Year 10/11 – 1 hour per piece of homework

Please note that the homework timetables indicate the night on which homework should be done by students. Students can complete their homework on any night in advance of the designated hand in date if they wish.