



HOMework POLICY

Recommended by:	Assistant Principal
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Ratified by:	Chair of Governors
Signed:	<i>J Goodman</i>
Position on the board	Chair of Governors
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Next Review:	January 2028
Policy Tier (Central/Hub/School):	School

1. Introduction

This policy sets out Gospel Oak School's approach to homework and has been designed to ensure clarity, consistency and fairness for students, staff and parents/carers. Homework is an integral part of learning at Gospel Oak and plays an important role in consolidating classroom learning, developing independent study habits and preparing students for future success.

The policy aims to ensure that homework:

- supports learning without causing unnecessary stress.
- is purposeful and directly linked to curriculum intent.
- develops routines, responsibility and independence.
- is manageable for students and sustainable for staff.

2. Why Homework Matters

Homework is an essential component of effective education. Research consistently shows that regular, well-designed homework supports progress by:

- reinforcing and consolidating learning from lessons.
- enabling students to practise and apply knowledge independently.
- supporting long-term retention through retrieval and repetition.
- developing organisation, resilience and self-discipline.
- preparing students for assessments and examinations.

At Gospel Oak, homework is designed to complement high-quality teaching rather than replace it.

3. Creating Sustainable Study Habits

We believe that clear routines and high expectations are key to academic success and student wellbeing. Homework at Gospel Oak is structured to reduce uncertainty and cognitive overload, helping students to build positive habits over time.

All homework is set:

- on school nights only (Monday - Friday).
- in manageable time allocations.
- with clear instructions and deadlines.

Students are explicitly taught how to complete homework effectively, particularly retrieval-based tasks.

4. Supporting Your Son/Daughter at Home

Parents and carers can support effective homework habits by:

- providing a quiet, distraction-free workspace.

- encouraging mobile phones to be kept away during homework time.
- taking an interest in what has been set and how it links to learning.
- supporting organisation by checking deadlines on ClassCharts;
- praising effort and consistency rather than just outcomes.

5. Types of Homework Set

Homework at Gospel Oak may include:

- Retrieval and quizzing tasks to strengthen memory.
- Written or online practice tasks.
- Application tasks, such as exam-style questions.
- Exam papers
- Deep Learning Projects (Years 7-9).

Homework is never set as simple re-copying or highlighting, as these are not effective learning strategies.

6. Reading Homework

Reading is a vital life skill and underpins success across the curriculum.

Year 7

- Students complete a minimum of 1 hour of independent reading per week.
- Reading is followed by a weekly quiz to check understanding.
- Reading is monitored by tutors.

7. Homework at Key Stage 3 Years 7–9)

Students in Years 7–9 will receive:

- English: 1 piece of homework per week
- Maths: 1 piece of homework per week
- Science: 1 piece of homework per week

Homework will be online and is set in line with the published homework schedule. In Maths the platform is Mathswatch, Science is Educake and English is Carousel learning.

8. Deep Learning Projects (Key Stage 3)

Students in Years 7–9 complete one Deep Learning Project per half term. These projects encourage creativity, independence and deeper engagement with subject content.

Project Rota (2025–26)

- HT1: PE

- HT2: MFL
- HT3: Art & Design
- HT4: RE
- HT5: Performing Arts
- HT6: Humanities (History & Geography)

9. Homework at Key Stage 4 (Years 10–11)

Homework at KS4 plays a crucial role in preparing students for GCSE examinations and supporting long-term retention of knowledge and skills.

KS4 Homework Principles

- Homework is set regularly in all GCSE subjects.
- Tasks are closely aligned to exam specifications and assessment objectives.
- Homework focuses on retrieval, application and deliberate practice.
- Independent study expectations increase from Year 10 to Year 11.

Types of KS4 Homework

Time Expectations (Guidance)

- Year 10: 1 hour per week for option subjects and 2 hours per week for Maths, English and Science.
- Year 11: 1 hour per week for option subjects and 2 hours per week for Maths, English and

10. Organisation and Communication

- Students are not issued with planners.
- All homework is set and monitored via ClassCharts;
- Parents and carers can view tasks, deadlines and completion.

11. Key Stage 4 Homework Schedules (Years 10 and 11)

To ensure homework is evenly distributed across the week and manageable for students, KS4 follows a two-week (Week A / Week B) homework rota.

Year 11 Homework Schedule

Week A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option A / Option D	Option C	Option B & English	Science	Maths

Week B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option B / Option C	English	Option A & Maths	Science	Option D

Year 10 Homework Schedule

Week A

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option A / Option D	Option C	English	Option B	Maths & Science

Week B

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option A / Option B	Option D	Option C	Science	Maths & English

12. Rewards and Sanctions

- Students are awarded achievement points for handing their homework in on time.
- Incomplete or late homework results in a next-day 60-minute detention to complete the work.

13. Homework During Holidays and Assessments

- All students are not set homework during holidays;

14. Roles and Responsibilities

Students

- Complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Check classcharts and meet deadlines.
- Seek help if unsure about tasks.

Parents and Carers

- Support routines and organisation.
- Monitor ClassCharts;

- Communicate concerns with the school.

Staff

- Set homework consistently and in line with this policy and published schedules.
- Ensure homework is consistently set and visible on ClassCharts;
- Explicitly go through the homework slide during lessons so expectations are clear.
- Accurately log behaviour points and achievement points in line with the school behaviour policy.
- Monitor completion and follow up where needed.

14. Review

This policy will be reviewed every two years to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our students and community.