



## Homework Policy

### Year 8

#### Summary:

We believe in the value of effective homework as research shows that well planned and marked homework can make a positive difference to student outcomes.

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Board of Governors

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**Chairperson:**

**Principal:**

This policy replaces any previous policies and is valid from:

1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

To be reviewed & updated by:

Mrs D Purvis

By 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026





# **Year 8 Homework Guide**

**2025-26**

Dear Parent/Guardian

We hope you will find our new homework booklet useful. Starting post primary education can be confusing for parents as well as for children and we have produced this guide to support you at the beginning of our journey together. We believe in the value of effective homework as research shows that well planned and marked homework can make a positive difference to student outcomes.




There are many different types of homework that students are asked to complete as you can see from each of the subjects included in the booklet. Homework will be marked regularly, and students will be encouraged to react to teacher feedback using a purple pen to demonstrate clear marking for improvement. At times, verbal feedback may be given to students on their work.







Helping your child with homework is something we would encourage. This shows young people that you value homework and establishes good behaviours at Key Stage 3. Such habits can then be carried through to later key stages when more independent study is required in preparation for GCSEs and A Levels. If no formal homework is set on a particular day, we recommend that all students should spend time reading over their notes and reading for pleasure.




We have Winter and Summer exams and independent homework and revision will help to support the individual success of every student.

Signing the homework planner is also a good way for parents to involve themselves in the school and demonstrate our commitment to working together.

As always, thank you for your support and if there is anything you need or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Homework set</u>
History 	<p>In Year 8 students will receive one homework each week. This homework will either be written, research, reading or learning. Homework will be explained in class but will be accessible through Microsoft Teams. Teachers will direct students as to how work is to be completed and handed in; either through Microsoft Teams or completed in their notebooks. Homework will be recorded in student planners. All homework will receive verbal or written feedback. Where appropriate, written or verbal feedback will include two things the student has done well and one area for improvement. Topics covered in year 8 include what is History, the Normans in England and Ireland and Medieval Life.</p>
Art & Design 	<p>In Art and Design Year 8 students complete a A3 / double page in depth homework each month. It will complement topics covered in class, research work and preparation for practical lessons. Each homework is clearly explained by the class teacher and a demonstration or example given during their lesson. Students are to complete practical homework in their sketchbooks. The practical homework will be followed by a set quiz on an artist or art movement on their iPads. Topics include artists such as Vincent Van Gogh, Picasso, Ceramic artists and Michael Craig Martin. A Summer Project is set for class and homework in Term 3 and the theme of this will be set by the teacher.</p> <p>All Homework is given a comment and a mark out of 20. Students are selected each week for achievement rewards.</p>
Home Economics 	<p>Home Economics homework in Year 8 is set once a fortnight and is used to consolidate and extend work completed in the class, for research and to prepare for practical food lessons. Each homework is clearly explained, and time is given to note this in student planners. Students complete and submit all written homework by the deadline set and agreed with the class teacher. A variety of tasks are set across the year including factual recall questions, keywords, research and using data.</p> <p>Preparation for food practical lessons is a key homework task. Items to be brought to school are listed on the first page of the white recipe book. Students are required to self-evaluate and identify areas for improvement after practical lessons as well as completing questions on the practical lesson. All students have a copy of the recipe book in their one drive on the I-pad.</p> <p>Homework topics to include – getting ready to cook, kitchen equipment, weighing and measuring, first aid, the Eatwell Guide, water and fibre, key words and preparation for school exams.</p>
Spanish	<p>Homework is set when appropriate. There are two homework tasks per week in the MFL department, one written and the other learning. The type of tasks set will vary depending on the ability of the individual classes and pupils. There is one common homework per topic at Key Stage 3. Students should be able to understand that learning homework is as important as written homework. Homework will be assessed appropriately and where possible have positive</p>

	<p>feedback and a target for further improvement. Marks for vocabulary tests and homework will be recorded and used as evidence for tracker data and discussion at Parent/Teacher consultation.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>Students will be set homework regularly. The topics covered this year will include: the geography of NI, map skills, geology, the geography of food and ecosystems. Homeworks will be varied and will include written or research tasks.</p>
<p>ICT</p> 	<p><b>When:</b> Homework will be set weekly.</p> <p><b>What:</b> Homework will be a series of recall questions based on students learning.</p> <p><b>Expectation:</b> Students should score over 80%. They may have as many attempts as possible and use their class notes to help.</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b> The purpose of this homework is for students to recall knowledge learnt in the lesson, keeping it fresh for future lessons and ultimately their assessments. They should be using their notes and work from lessons to help them to develop good revision practice. The number of questions will increase as their knowledge increases through lessons.</p>
<p>Maths</p> 	<p>Students will be set homework weekly, usually due on or close to a Wednesday. There will typically be a numeracy learning homework, a written homework and a selection of tasks on <a href="http://www.mymaths.co.uk">www.mymaths.co.uk</a></p> <p>For the MyMaths tasks, it will be useful to check your child's 'Homework' and 'Results' page to see what work is set and what marks have been achieved. Each task has an accompanying online lesson if needed and often a video to watch if further explanation is required. Tasks can be re-attempted to improve the best mark recorded, or to refresh your child's memory leading up to a test.</p>
<p>Music</p> 	<p>Students will have their own dedicated homework booklet. Homework will be set every two weeks and will include written worksheets, online quizzes, listening tasks, research tasks and revision.</p>
<p>RS</p> 	<p>Homework in Religious Studies will be set each week. Houses of Strangford, St Patrick, the land where Jesus lived, Moses and the Egyptians. Homework will include different tasks and will challenge different skills of the students. Homework tasks will include Microsoft Forms Quizzes linked to Starter/Plenary activities within the classroom and preparation activities for assessments such as revision posters. Furthermore, extensions from class work, practical projects,</p>

	research tasks and Q&A tasks. Students will be encouraged to revise over their work on evenings when written homework etc isn't given out.
<p>Science</p> 	<p>Science includes Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Year 8 will be set one homework each week in their science homework booklet. This should last approximately 20 – 30 minutes duration. These can include written homework, learning homework, research tasks and activities targeting the development of literacy, numeracy and ICT.</p> <p>On completion of a unit of work there will be an end of unit test which will be used for continuous assessment. Homework prior to this will be revision using the departmental revision Padlet.</p>
<p>T &amp; D</p> 	<p>T&amp;D is mainly a practical subject. At this time will be using videos to help demonstrate practical elements of the course. HW will be set to develop knowledge, key words and understanding of materials, tools and processes. Drawing and presentation skills will also be developed through sketching tasks, some of which will involve following a YouTube tutorial.</p> <p>A T&amp;D booklet will be provided for theory and HW will be set from this booklet and notified on the Microsoft Teams App. A written HW will be set once every half term.</p>
<p>English</p> 	<p>In Key Stage 3 English students will be expected to work on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Independent Reading:</b> Students will be encouraged to engage in the Accelerated Reader programme through reading their novel. Students should ensure they bring this in everyday as part of their daily equipment.</li> <li>2. <b>Spelling:</b> Students will have a weekly list of spellings to revise which they will be tested on in class by their English teacher.</li> <li>3. <b>Reading/Writing:</b> Students will have an extended <b>45 minute</b> homework, every fortnight, related to the class unit of work.</li> </ol> <p>Students will be expected to engage in revision when tracking assessment, Christmas and Summer examinations are upcoming.</p>

