



# Dorchester Middle School

## Home Learning Policy

<b>Date:</b>	April 2026
<b>Next review date:</b>	April 2027
<b>Signed by:</b>	Mr J Webb, HT
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Mrs D Hammons, Assistant HT

## **Overview**

At Dorchester Middle School we believe that home learning (homework) is a useful tool in supporting our pupils on their learning journey.

More information about homework can be found on the Education Endowment Fund (EEF) website. [Homework | EEF](#)

As a staff team we need to be consistent so that the homework habit is established by the end of September. Subject Leaders and Year Leaders will monitor the homework behaviour points for their cohort, alongside EWL (engagement with learning), APs (achievement points) and BPs (behaviour points).

## **How will homework be set?**

Homework may be set centrally, either by the subject leader or a designated member of the team, as it matches the curriculum and reduces teacher workload. In some subjects, teams may decide to set their own homework for each class as it will link directly to the progress in their specific lessons. Some subjects will use pre-prepared purchased materials, for example the software used in Science. Software which corrects the work in the moment and can then be followed up by teaching staff is an efficient way of working in some subject areas. Our homework plan will be published on our website (see below). Homework must be recorded by the pupil in their planner. Time must be set aside in lessons for this and use of the planner must be monitored by class tutors in home base sessions.

## **What is the rationale for the subjects?**

Our focus is on weekly homework for the core subjects in KS2 with the addition of modern foreign languages in KS3. There will be termly homework set in history, geography, theology & ethics, art and technology in KS3. There will be a project set in Year 8 theology & ethics entitled 'Fragility of Freedom'. Feedback from the staff voice questionnaire has highlighted homework and the need for it to be meaningful and manageable for pupils and teachers. We believe the purpose of homework falls into three categories – an extension of what has been learnt in the classroom, reinforcing specific knowledge and skills, and pre-learning in preparation.

## **How do we support disadvantaged pupils?**

Pupils will be given appropriate time to complete homework, with the availability of lunchtime and afterschool homework support. Research shows that pupils eligible for free school meals receive additional benefits from homework. However, disadvantaged pupils are less likely to have a quiet working space, suitable devices, stable internet connection and parental support. As a result, these pupils will often struggle to develop effective learning habits. Homework clubs can really help to overcome these barriers and pupils will be encouraged and directed to take advantage of these resources. Parents can book pupils into afterschool homework clubs on a weekly basis as and when it is needed.

## **How will we communicate with parents about homework issues?**

A behaviour point will be given on the day due if homework is not presented, as this will ensure it is sent home on the parent app immediately. Persistent issues around homework will be followed up by a telephone call from the teacher to the parent. Heads of Year and Subject Leaders will monitor behaviour points given for homework. We will do all we can to support pupils and families to be successful in meeting homework deadlines.

## **What happens if homework is not completed on the due date?**

Attendance at homework club is insisted on if homework deadlines are missed on two consecutive weeks. We offer homework clubs during lunchtimes throughout the week, and afterschool on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

## Homework plan for Dorchester Middle School

	Key Stage 2	Key Stage 3
<b>Reading</b>	Daily reading <i>(20 minutes x 5 days)</i> recorded in home school diary	Daily reading <i>(20 minutes x 5 days)</i> recorded in home school diary
<b>English</b>	<i>Weekly homework tasks:</i> CGP book Spelling Shed Reading Comprehension <i>(60 minutes)</i>	<i>Weekly homework tasks:</i> Vocabulary Reading comprehension SPaG skills <i>(60 minutes)</i>
<b>Maths</b>	<p><b>Year 5 (45 mins)</b> Maths Practice Journal task <i>(weekly)</i> Arithmetic practice worksheet <i>(half termly)</i> <i>Times tables facts using cards, worksheets or the Times Tables Rockstars online (weekly)</i></p> <p><b>Year 6 (60mins)</b> Maths Revision book task <i>(weekly)</i> Maths Question book task <i>(weekly)</i> Arithmetic practice worksheet <i>(half termly)</i> <i>Times tables facts using cards, worksheets or the Times Tables Rockstars online (weekly)</i></p>	<p><b>Years 7 and 8 (60 mins)</b> Sparx online homework platform <i>(weekly)</i> Arithmetic practice worksheet <i>(half termly)</i></p> <p>Pupils who are not yet fluent with times tables facts will be set practice using cards, worksheets or the Times Tables Rockstars online programme <i>(15 mins)</i></p>

<b>Science</b>		Retrieval of classwork using the online platform Carousel Learning ( <i>weekly for 40 minutes</i> )
<b>MfL</b>		Active Learn online platform Language Gym online platform Blookets online platform Vocabulary revision (sentence builders) Revision using a knowledge organiser ( <i>weekly for 30 minutes</i> )
<b>History</b>		Research based task ( <i>half termly for 60 mins</i> ) Revision using a knowledge organiser as preparation for an assessment ( <i>20 mins</i> ) Vocabulary test ( <i>one per unit 20 mins</i> )
<b>Geography</b>		Research based task ( <i>half termly for 60 mins</i> ). <i>Example here:</i> <a href="#">🌐 Year 7 Geography Homework Sheet 🌐.docx</a> Revision using a knowledge organiser as preparation for an assessment ( <i>20 mins</i> ) Vocabulary test ( <i>one per unit 20 mins</i> )
<b>Theology and Ethics</b>		<b>Year 7 and 8</b> Revision using a knowledge organiser ( <i>20 mins</i> ) Vocabulary test ( <i>one per unit 20 mins</i> ) <b>Year 8 only</b> “Fragility of Freedom” project running between November and January ( <i>approx. 2 hours</i> )

<b>Art</b>		Research a focussed artist or movement and produce a piece of work in that style ( <i>termly for approx. 2 hours</i> ) <i>Example here:</i> <a href="#">Year 8 Aztec Fesitival Spring BIG Homework Classwork(1).docx</a>
<b>Technology</b>		<b>Resistant Materials</b> Research task and product analysis (once per unit <i>for 60 mins</i> ) <i>Example here:</i> <a href="#">Example of homework for Resistant Materials.docx</a>

