



**The Barlow RC High School
& Specialist Science College**

HOMEWORK POLICY

Mission Statement

As a Catholic school, our mission is to show love through our
Respect for others.

We value our God-given gifts, talents and abilities.
Our aim is to bring out the best in everyone, within a safe
And happy environment.

Everyone should know that we are followers of God by what we do,
not just by what we say.

RATIFIED BY GOVERNING BODY	17 th September 2015
DUE FOR REVIEW	September 2016

Introduction

This policy has been developed to assist in ensuring that homework is as effective as possible, bringing out the best in everybody, as set out in our mission statement:

Aims

Through this policy we aim to:

- Ensure that parents are clear about what their child is expected to do.
- Ensure consistency of approach throughout the school.
- To use homework as a tool to help continue to raise standards of attainment.
- Improve the quality of the learning experience offered to pupils and to extend it beyond the classroom environment.
- Provide opportunities for parents, children and the school to work together in partnership in relation to children's learning.
- Encourage pupils and their parents to share and enjoy learning experiences.
- Reinforce work covered in class by providing further opportunities for individual learning.
- Encourage children to develop the responsibility, confidence and self-discipline needed to study independently.

The Nature of Homework

It should be noted that homework can be set in many different forms with many different expectations and outcomes. It is important to remember that when expecting and setting homework there are a number of points to consider:

- The nature and type of homework changes throughout a pupil's school career.
- Amount and frequency of homework should increase as a pupil gets older.
- Homework should not cause undue stress on the pupil, family or the teacher.
- It will not necessarily come in the form of a written task.
- Homework should be set regularly

Time Allocation and Tasks

Recommended Time Allocation

Homework should never be too onerous nor should it ever create stress within the pupil's family. If parents have any concerns they should not hesitate to contact the Head of Year or head of faculty. Time to complete homework tasks will depend on the age of pupil and task set.

The following are **government recommendations** as appropriate time allocations for homework activities.

- Y7 and Y8 – (20-30mins per piece set)
- Y9 – (30-45mins per piece set)
- Y10 and Y11 – (45-60mins per piece set)

How often in this school?

Homework is set in line with a homework timetable. Please see appendix 4.

Principles of the timetable:

How many homework tasks from each subject?

Key stage 4:

2 homework tasks per week in English, maths & science.

1 homework in RE and 1 homework for each option subject.

Key Stage 3

Subjects with more than one lesson per week: 1 homework task per week in each subject.

Subjects with only 1 lesson per week: 1 homework task per fortnight.

How long should a pupil spend on each homework task?

Teachers will tell pupils how long to spend on each task. The guide below is a rough guide of how long each task should take.

- Years 11 & 10: 45 minutes to 1 hour
- Years 9 & 8: 30-45 minutes
- Year 7: up to 30 minutes

Homework set should have up to a one week turnaround. That means that pupils will have up to one week to complete and submit homework.

Homework Tasks

Homework activities will change to meet the needs of the pupils involved and activities that might be occurring in class. All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and assist pupils in the process of their academic development. Holiday homework may be set by individual class teachers as they see appropriate. Practical subjects may set project based homework which will span half terms.

Literacy based homework

Reading – every pupil will be set one reading homework per week in addition to his/her subject homework. Parents are asked to ensure that this reading is carried out and to sign the Pupil journal as evidence that this has been carried out. Please note: research homework should not just be cut & paste from the internet.

Writing – written homework should be presented neatly, in line with our school Pride, Punctuation and Spelling expectations (PPS). Pupils may be set keyword definitions & spelling as a homework as this will support pupils' writing in class and exams. Pupils will be tested on these definitions and spellings in class.

Speaking & listening - pupils will often be asked to carry out speaking & listening activities such as interviewing parents, gathering feedback or discussing issues. It is important that pupils are

supported at home in completing these tasks and that parents engage with their children when they are completing these activities.

What help can pupils get with homework?

- ICT suites are available every lunchtime to give pupils access to ICT equipment should they want /need to use these for their homework activities -teachers supervise this provision and are on hand with help and advice.
- The school has invested in an online homework calendar. This allows pupils and parents to check homework online – they are able to see what has been set, when it is due and have access to support materials to help them. It will also record key events like formal assessment periods and exams. This programme is called Show My Homework and can be accessed at www.thebarlowrc.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar There is a link to this on the school website in the Curriculum area.

What happens if pupils do not complete their homework?

- Instances where homework is not completed have a consistent consequence across the school.
 - 1 missed homework per half term is a warning.
 - 2 missed homework's per half term is a C1, break time detention.
 - 3 missed homework's per half term is a C2, 30 minute detention.
- Parents are informed of instances where homework is not completed. If a child does not complete their homework 3 times (per subject termly), parents receive a formal letter of concern from the school.

Who does what?

Role of the Head of Faculty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide an overview of homework to be set for the forth coming half term• To monitor the setting.
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Role of the Class Teacher	<p>Set homework which helps pupils to make progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set up regular homework in line with the homework timetable and differentiated as necessary. • To ensure that homework is set consistently across classes in the cohort. • To set homework that takes equal and racial opportunities into account. • To ensure any homework is purposeful and links directly to the curriculum being taught. • To reward and praise children who regularly complete homework tasks. • To mark homework, as appropriate, and give feedback to pupils. <p>Feedback on pupils' homework</p> <p>Teachers are expected to make sure that children are given feedback on their homework. It should be given in a way that lets your child know</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how well they have done • how they could do better <p>This may not always be through written comments from the teacher.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sometimes, work will be discussed in lessons • work may be self or peer assessed • other times, teachers may give written comments on just one or two aspects of a piece of work
Role of the Head teacher and Governing Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To check compliance of the Policy. • To discuss with staff how far the policy is being successfully implemented.
Role of Parents/Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support the school by ensuring that their child attempts the homework. • To provide a suitable place for their child to carry out their homework. • To encourage and praise their child when they have completed their homework. • To become actively involved and support their child with homework activities. • To make it clear that they value homework and they support the school by explaining how it can help learning. • Parents/Carers who have queries about homework should not hesitate to make an appointment to see their child's Head of Year.
Role of the Pupil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To complete all homework by the given deadline • To submit homework on time • To manage their homework well – that is, don't leave it all to the last minute!

Five ways to help!

Five things parents can do to help their child learn outside (and at) school

1. Give your child confidence through lots of praise and encouragement.
 - As a parent, you have tremendous power to strengthen your child's confidence - and confidence is vital to learning.
 - Specific praise focusing on a particular aspect of their work ("I like the way you have...") is more effective than bland, blanket praise.
 - Some people argue that to really do well, children - perhaps all of us - need ten-times as much praise as criticism!
2. Wherever possible, try to provide a reasonably quiet place for children to do homework (or help them to get to other places where homework can be done).
3. Encourage your child to discuss homework with you, including feedback from teachers. An overview of the topics covered per half term is available on the school website.
4. Visit museums and places you think your child might find interesting. Children now have free admission to major national museums and art galleries.
5. Try to help your child to see the enjoyable aspects of homework!

Five things pupils can do to learn outside (and at) school

1. Make use of the internet for research and guidance – use the ICT suites at lunch times to get a head start
2. Ask their teacher if they do not understand the homework set.
3. Don't leave their homework until the last minute.
4. Switch off the TV and sit at a table or desk in a quiet area.
5. Get organised! Break down the tasks into manageable chunks.

Five things the school has done to help pupils learn outside (and at) school

1. We have made ICT suites available each lunchtime to give pupils access to ICT equipment should they want /need to use these for their homework activities.
2. We have agreed that instances where homework is not completed should have a consistent consequence across the school. All homework not completed will incur a detention.
3. We have agreed that parents should be informed when then there is a concern regarding their child's homework. If a child does not complete their homework 3 times, parents will receive a formal letter of concern from the school.
4. We have also invested in an online homework calendar. This will allow you to check your children's homework online – you will be able to see what they have been set, when it is due and if they have support materials to help them. It will also record key events like formal assessment periods and exams. This programme is called Show My Homework and can be accessed at www.thebarlowrc.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar You will also find a link to this on our school website in the Curriculum area.



Dear Parent /Carer

Feedback Questionnaire

Throughout this year, parents/carers were asked to complete a questionnaire during your child's Parents' Evening. Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire as it has given us a very useful insight into parents' views – what you are happy with and what you would like us to get even better at.

One of the questions we asked you this year was about homework: Do you agree that your child receives appropriate homework? 69% of responses from all parents, across all year groups strongly agreed/ agreed that their child did receive appropriate homework; 11% of parents neither agreed nor disagreed and 20% of parents disagreed.

Our aim for the academic year 2012/13 is to ensure that all parents agree that their child receives appropriate homework. In order to achieve, this we have taken the following actions:

- We have rewritten our Homework Policy to ensure that all staff, pupils & parents have a clear understanding of homework expectations. The policy will be available for parents to view via our website from September 2012.
- We have made ICT suites available every lunchtime to give pupils access to ICT equipment should they want /need to use these for their homework activities.
- We have agreed that instances where homework is not completed should have a consistent consequence across the school. From September 2012, all homework not completed will incur a detention.
- We have agreed that parents should be better informed of instances where homework is not completed. If a child does not complete their homework 3 times, you will receive a formal letter of concern from the school.
- We have also invested in an online homework calendar. This will allow you to check your children's homework online – you will be able to see what they have been set, when it is due and if they have support materials to help them. It will also record key events like formal assessment periods and exams. This programme is called Show My Homework and can be accessed at www.showmyhomework.co.uk/thebarlowrc You will also find a link to this on our school website in the Curriculum area. Log in details will be recorded in the Pupil Journal.

We are very hopeful that these measures will improve and support home learning and thank you for your continued support in achieving our shared goal of an outstanding Catholic education for your child.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Head Teacher

Appendix 2 – Standard letter of concern for incomplete homework

x3

Dear Parent/Carer

It is with regret that I write to inform you that _____ has not completed/submit his/her homework for the third time in this subject: _____

As a result, your child has completed detentions to catch up on this missed work.

I'm sure you agree that homework is vital to your child's progress. Please speak to your child regarding this matter and re-enforce our shared expectation that homework must be completed.

Parents/carers can see what homework is being set for their child by either checking their child's homework journal or by checking the online homework calendar:
www.thebarlowrc.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar

Thank you for your continued support in achieving our shared goal of an outstanding Catholic education for your child.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Head Teacher

Appendix 3 – Homework pages for Pupil Journal

HOMEWORK

Pupil Journal



This Pupil Journal is full of useful tools to help you with your learning – periodic tables, times tables and key words to name but a few. You should use it to help you with your homework and to record what you have to do each day.

Show My Homework

- @ The school homework calendar is available for all to see at www.thebarlowrc.showmyhomework.co.uk/school/homeworks/calendar This site records all the homework set for all pupils, when it is due and gives you access to work sheets & resources to help you. You can even submit your homework to your teachers online!
Your individual usernames and passwords for Show My Homework are:
User name:
Password:

It is recommended that you spend the following times on your homework each day.

- Y7 and Y8 - 45 to 90 minutes per day
- Y9 - 1 to 2 hours per day
- Y10 and Y11 - 1.5 to 2.5 hours per day

Homework Tasks

All homework tasks and activities will have a clear purpose and will assist you in the process of your learning. Holiday homework may be set by individual class teachers as they see appropriate.

Homework Clubs

- @ Did you know that you can use the ICT suites in Maths & English during lunchtimes every day to get a head start on your homework?

Top 5 tips to help you do your homework

1. Make use of the internet for research and guidance.
2. Ask your teacher if you do not understand the homework set.
3. Don't leave your homework until the last minute.
4. Switch off the TV and sit at a table or desk in a quiet area.
5. Get organised! Break down the tasks into manageable chunks.

What happens if you don't do your homework?

If you don't do your homework,

- 1 missed homework per half term is a warning.
- 2 missed homework's per half term is a C1, break time detention.
- 3 missed homework's per half term is a C2, 30 minute detention.

Your detention will be completed either during lunchtime or at the end of the school day. You will have to do this for **every homework task you don't do**.

As homework is so important in helping you to make progress, more than 3 pieces of homework missed in one subject will result in a **formal letter of concern being sent home**.



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Dear Parent /Carer

Homework

Headteacher:
Claire McCarron BSc (Hons) MA, NPQH

We know that one of the areas that pupils and parents often express concerns about when they join secondary school is how they are going to manage their homework!

Like you, we want the best for your child. Therefore, we see homework as your child's opportunity to consolidate & extend their learning – vital to their overall progress. Below you will find a number of ways in which The Barlow will support your child in their home learning when they join us in September 2012.

- Our Homework Policy is available for parents to view via our website from September 2012 This clearly outlines homework expectations and also has some tips on how to help your child.
- ICT suites are available every lunchtime to give pupils access to ICT equipment should they want /need to use these for their homework activities.
- Instances where homework is not completed have a consistent consequence across the school: all homework not completed will incur a detention.
 - 1 missed homework per half term is a warning.
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- Parents are informed of instances where homework is not completed. If a child does not complete their homework 3 times, you will receive a formal letter of concern from the school.
- We have also invested in an online homework calendar. This will allow you to check your children's homework online – you will be able to see what they have been set, when it is due and if they have support materials to help them. It will also record key events like formal assessment periods and exams. This programme is called Show My Homework and can be accessed at www.showmyhomework.co.uk/thebarlowrc You will also find a link to this on our school website in the Curriculum area. Log in details will be recorded in the Pupil Journal.

We are very hopeful that these measures will support home learning and remove any concerns you or your child may have had regarding managing homework. We look forward to working with you to achieve our shared goal of an outstanding Catholic education for your child.

Yours sincerely

Deputy Head Teacher

HOMEWORK TIMETABLE SEE APPENDIX