Abbot Beyne School

Homework Policy September 2026

The purpose of homework at Abbot Beyne School is to promote deep and independent learning and to extend learning in lessons. Learning is the long-term retention of knowledge and the ability to transfer it to new contexts. As such, homework should support learning.

Homework tasks should:

- Require students to revise and consolidate previously taught knowledge
- Require students to practise new skills using that knowledge
- Require students to prepare for the learning that will take place the following lesson
- Encourage students to develop the practice of independent learning
- Develop perseverance, self-discipline and the ability to organise unsupervised study
- Open up areas of study and make possible the use of materials and sources of information that are not accessible in the classroom, promoting research skills

Individual teachers will specify how work is submitted. Our aim is to ensure ALL students engage in useful and meaningful activities outside the classroom. We ask parents to support us in seeing that homework is done conscientiously and in the best possible conditions.

Staff Guidance on Homework Tasks

All homework instructions will be set in Showbie on the school iPad and should include:

- The date the homework is due
- Explanation of the homework task
- Resources needed to complete the task
- Support and extension materials should also be available as appropriate
- Details of how the work will be evidenced and/or submitted to the teacher

Homework will be set in the following format on Showbie - Homework - <title of task>

Rewards, linked to our House Point System, will be given for high quality completion of homework. **Students should receive homework every lesson** along the following times:

Key Stage 3 - 20 minutes per homework
Key Stage 4 - 30 minutes per homework

Key Stage 3 homework should consist of one of the following only:

- Completion of quiz based on subject knowledge organiser
- Online assessment activities (Sparx Maths, Sparx Science and Sparx Reader) to provide the teacher with information about student understanding.
- Set task by Performance Faculty subject

Consequently, teachers should be prepared to and plan for teaching students methods of revision and research to facilitate such homework. Low stakes quizzing should be facilitated by Socrative, for example, which auto-marks work.

Teachers must use in-class methods of checking the learning that is expected of students through the homework quizzes. Teachers should also use the Sparx monitoring systems to ensure homework is completed.

Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 homework

This should follow the same pattern as Key Stage 3 homework. However, given the nature of GCSE, BTEC and A level courses, teachers may wish to set exam practice questions or extended pieces of homework linked to the exam curriculum. Feedback of some form would be expected in this case. Similarly, coursework may need to be worked on as homework for examination subjects.

Study support facilities within school

Where it is particularly difficult to provide a suitable place to work at home, it may be more appropriate for the facilities at school to be used as a starting point. During the school day all students can use the Learning Resource Centre (LRC) to assist with homework. Most importantly, students should discuss problems with homework with subject teachers, parents and Form Tutors well before deadline dates. The LRC is open until 4pm every day to help students manage their homework.

Guideline strategies for homework monitoring

1. Students should:
    - Complete all homework to the best of their ability
    - Use Showbie to check homework instructions and due dates

2. Subject teachers should:
    - Record missing or incomplete homework in Arbor.

- Refer persistent problems to the Subject Leader; subsequent action may involve contacting parents

3. Form Tutors should:
   - Use Arbor to monitor homework and refer general problems to the Head of Year

4. Head of Year should:
   - Discuss issues with students and inform parents if necessary

5. Directors of Learning/Subject leads should:
   - Monitor the setting of homework to ensure that it complies with the above policy

6. Assistant Headteacher should:
   - Monitor the setting of homework across faculties through the SLM meeting structure

Non-completion of homework or homework not completed to a satisfactory standard

The non-completion of homework or not completing homework to a satisfactory standard will lead to a 30 minute detention. Whilst we recognise in some cases there will be extenuating circumstances for the non-completion of homework, these should be rare and few and far inbetween. We would always ask that parents contact the school if there is a genuine reason for non-completion of homework.

Academic research shows the importance of homework and the emphasis it has on raising achievement. As part of our iPad strategy, all work from lessons and all homework is on Showbie. In line with government policy and reducing lost learning, we would expect all students when they are absent to keep up to date with their school work, including homework. Therefore we ask all students who are in a lesson to ensure that they have completed their homework by the due date, even if they are absent after this lesson or on the day the homework is set for. We would also aim for students who are absent from a lesson when homework is set to complete the homework, however we recognise that occasionally this will not be possible. However, all resources are on Showbie for the lesson to ensure students do not fall behind if they are absent from school and we would request they keep up to date with their learning.

For Sparx Maths, Sparx Science and Sparx Reader, if a student does not complete their homework, they will be placed in detention. This homework must be completed in detention. If the student does not complete the homework, the detention will be reissued for the following day until it is completed.

Use of AI and homework

Teachers should refer to the school AI policy and the work from whole-school CPD when devising homework tasks that are suitable for students and for evaluating the use of AI in student's work.