



NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

'Nurturing Success'



Homework Policy and Timetable 2025

To be reviewed annually

What is the purpose of homework?

Homework is an essential part of our overall delivery of the curriculum – deliberate and well-planned homework tasks make for more motivated students who are more likely to understand the content, develop subject-specific skills and consolidate the core knowledge needed to be successful.

Homework is also intended to encourage students to develop independent study skills, organisational habits, effective time management and self-discipline – helping to raise attainment levels and further challenge and extend the in-class content.

All students are expected to use homework to consolidate, revisit and reinforce the learning they do in classrooms. At NS, homework is designed by curriculum teams and teachers to give students the opportunity to complete purposeful and meaningful tasks:

- Revisit and retrieve knowledge
- Check and test understanding
- Apply and practise skills
- Reinforce skills by applying them to new contexts
- Deepen knowledge through further research and wider reading

What does the evidence say about the impact of homework?

Educational research indicates a positive correlation between completing regular homework tasks and student progress and achievement. According to the Education Endowment Fund, carefully designed homework tasks can accelerate a student's progress by up to 5 months across an academic year.

In particular, homework tasks that are linked explicitly to classroom work and the curriculum tend to be more effective and lead to a greater impact on students' learning and progress.

What might homework look like?

Homework can take a variety of forms and these will vary according to which approaches suit individual subjects:

- Recall of key definitions/vocabulary
- Use of online platforms such as Sparx Maths, Sparx Science or Quizlet to consolidate understanding and apply knowledge to different questions.
- Use resources provided by teachers to prepare for a test or assessment.
- Complete pre-reading ahead of discussion in class e.g. read an article, watch a video, make notes, etc.
- Review key knowledge and concepts from a particular topic.
- Practise and apply the skills learned during the lesson.
- Draft and redraft specific pieces of work.
- Complete research tasks to extend and deepen understanding of topics.
- Prepare a presentation to deliver in lessons.

Regardless of the format, homework is most beneficial when it reinforces and extends classwork and consolidates core knowledge and skills. When setting homework, departments will be mindful of these guiding principles and use them to set purposeful tasks that students recognise as meaningful and motivational.

When and where will homework be set and how long should it take?

All homework tasks are set via the online Homework Platform (Teams). Students and parents will be able to check tasks that have been set on a daily basis. Students via Teams and parents via the Haldor app. The individual timetables for each year group can be accessed on the website and are available in this policy.

Following research of similarly high performing schools across the country and in response to feedback, we have developed a homework timetable for each year group which indicates the week when homework is set for individual subjects, when this is due and approximately how long homework tasks will take to complete.

For all students, we have not insisted on a particular day when homework is set by subjects. This is to ensure that all tasks are purposeful and that subjects have the autonomy to set homework each week in line with the curriculum coverage in lessons. i.e. Students in Year 7 will have English, Maths and Science homework every week. However, the specific day on which this is set may change depending on when teachers have completed particular topics/units.

Homework must always be meaningful with a specific task that we know will actively promote learning and can be effectively carried out at home.

Research tells us that providing students and families with this homework timetable will help to embed effective study routines and improve students' mental health and wellbeing; students will know their homework schedule in advance and can plan their subsequent time accordingly to allow them to also participate in the extensive extra-curricular programme that we offer at NS.

Students will have a minimum of 1 week to complete their homework. In some cases and for certain subjects where homework is set every fortnight, students may have longer. For Computing, teachers will set a task towards the beginning of each term and expect that students will work for approximately 20 minutes per week on it.

How do we use homework to support a culture of reading at NS?

All students in Year 7 and 8 have one 'Reading lesson' per week as part of the curriculum to support reading comprehension skills. These lessons also develop independent study skills, support vocabulary expansion, foster exposure to a wide range of themes and topics, build cultural experiences through reading, and will hopefully support a lifelong appreciation of non-fiction and fiction texts.

All students in Year 7 and 8 are expected to **read for at least 20 minutes per day** to build effective reading habits as part of their homework routine.

Can students complete homework in school?

We recognise that some students may find homework more challenging to complete and therefore offer in-school support to help foster effective study habits.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) aims to provide a supportive environment to help students with their homework. Staff are available to supervise, check homework and can provide some support if needed.

The LRC is open at break, lunch and afterschool (until 4.30 Monday-Thursday and 4pm on Friday)

This is open to all students, including those with SEND. There may be times where, working in partnership with parents, the homework club forms a period 8 for some students. This would be agreed with parents and the SENDCos.

What happens if a student fails to complete their homework?

Whilst students are fully supported to complete homework, there is also a consequence for non-completion. In line with the School Behaviour Policy, if a student fails to submit homework, this is recorded on the Class Charts as a Warning and the homework set must be completed the following day. If the homework is not completed or there is more than one case of missing homework a detention may be set. Continued non-completion may result in an escalation of sanctions.

How will feedback be given and how do teachers report on homework?

Homework will be acknowledged and sampled by teachers to analyse any common mistakes and misconceptions. This helps to ensure that feedback from homework tasks is used to 'feed-forward' into future lesson planning and teaching.

Some homework tasks may be assessed to monitor individual progress and to provide personalised feedback.

When students receive their reports throughout the year, they will receive a Homework grade for each individual subject:

1	Outstanding	All homework tasks are completed on time and to a consistently high standard that is reflective of the student producing homework equal to or above their aspirational target (TAG). Homework tasks demonstrate the student's ambitious commitment to academic excellence.
2	Good	All homework tasks are completed on time and to the appropriate standard reflective of the student producing homework at least equal to their minimum target (MAG).
3	Requires improvement	Some homework tasks are incomplete and/or missing. The quality of homework tasks is inconsistent and reflects work that is below the student's minimum target and expected standard.
4	Cause for concern	Homework is frequently incomplete and/or missing and leading to persistent gaps in knowledge and skills.

If a student receives a Grade 3 or lower, parents should already be aware of these concerns through Sparx Parental emails or conversations with individual teachers.

How can I support my child with their homework?

As students move through their secondary education, increasing emphasis is placed upon their ability to be independent and self-disciplined with their study habits. Your role is crucially important in helping to ensure that:

- You show an interest in your child's learning and emphasise the value and importance of regular homework.
- Your child organises their time effectively to manage their homework.
- Your child doesn't spend unnecessary and excess time completing homework tasks that may have a negative impact on their mental health and well-being.
- Where possible, you help to provide your child with a suitable quiet space to complete their homework. Where this is challenging, you support your child to attend the Learning Resource Centre at school.
- Homework tasks are completed by the due date.

If your child needs help, offer assistance and understanding. This can include reminding them to seek out support from their subject teacher or form tutor at an appropriate time before the homework is due.

Many tasks will require students to review, revise and revisit their learning, often using 'knowledge quizzes' to check their understanding and retention. It is very helpful to quiz your child on their learning on a regular basis, especially in those subjects that they find more challenging. The simple act of recalling a topic will support their ability to use and apply that knowledge in the future.

Year 7 Homework Timetable

Students in Year 7 should expect to receive homework from **up to 5 subjects per week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take between 15 and 30 minutes resulting in up to **2.5 hours per week**.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework depending on where students are in the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**.

Students are also **expected to spend slightly more time on homework each week in the lead-up to termly assessments and Year 7 assessments**. Departments will ensure that revision homework tasks in these weeks direct students to specific resources and revision materials.

Term 1							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
None set	None set	English Maths	English Maths Science	English Maths Science Geography	English Maths Science History	English Maths Science Spanish RE	None set
Students will be shown how to access Teams-Assignments in Computing lessons and be set a task to complete.							

Term 2						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science Geography Perf. Arts	English Maths Science History Computing	English Maths Science Spanish RE	English Maths Science Geography DT	English Maths Science History Perf. Arts	English Maths Science Spanish Art	None set

Term 3					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science RE Geography	English Maths Science History Computing	English Maths Science Spanish DT	English Maths Science Art Perf. Arts	English Maths Science Geography History	None set

Term 4				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
English Maths Science Spanish RE	English Maths Science History Computing	English Maths Science Geography DT	English Maths Science Spanish Art	None set

Term 5					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science RE Perf.Arts	English Maths Science History Computing	English Maths Science Geography Spanish	Revision	Revision	None set

*Students will receive additional homework in term 5 in the form of revision tasks that are designed to prepare them for Year 7 Assessment.

Term 6						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science DT Art	English Maths Science Computing RE	English Maths Science Spanish History	English Maths Science Perf.Arts Geography	English Maths Science	English Maths Science	None set

*Students will not receive any homework in week 7 of term 6 as this will not leave enough time for students to complete tasks before the end of the academic year.

Year 8 Homework Timetable

Students in Year 8 should expect to receive homework from up to **6 subjects per week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take up to 30 minutes resulting in up to **3 hours per week**.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework depending on where students are in the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**. Students are also **expected to spend slightly more time on homework each week in the lead-up to termly assessments and Year 8 Assessments**. Departments will always ensure that revision homework tasks in these weeks direct students to specific resources and revision materials.

Note that students will receive homework from **EITHER Drama (Dr) or Dance (Da)** in any given Term as these are taught on rotation (3 half-terms on each). This is alongside Music within the Performing Arts homework week.

Term 1							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
None set	English Maths Science	English Maths Science Computing	English Maths Science History Spanish	English Maths Science Geography RE DT	English Maths Science Perf.Arts Art	English Maths Science Spanish	None set

Term 2						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science	English Maths Science Computing	English Maths Science History Spanish	English Maths Science Geography RE DT	English Maths Science Perf.Arts Art	English Maths Science Spanish History	None set

Term 3					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science History Geography	English Maths Science Computing Spanish RE	English Maths Science History Geography DT	English Maths Science Perf.Arts Art Spanish	English Maths Science RE History Geography	None set

Term 4				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
English Maths Science Spanish DT	English Maths Science History Geography Computing	English Maths Science Perf.Arts RE Spanish	English Maths Science History Geography Art	None set

Term 5					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science Spanish DT	English Maths Science History Geography Computing	English Maths Science Perf.Arts RE Spanish	English Maths Science History Geography Art	English Maths Science	None set

*Students will receive slightly more homework at the start of term 5 in the form of revision tasks that are designed to prepare them for end of year examinations.

Term 6						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
Revision	Revision	English Maths Science Computing	English Maths Science History Spanish	English Maths Science Geography RE DT	English Maths Science Perf.Arts Art	None set

*Students will not receive any homework in week 7 of term 6 as this will not leave enough time for students to complete tasks before the end of the academic year.

Year 9 Homework Timetable

Students in Year 9 should expect to receive homework from **up to 7 subjects per week**. Each subject will typically set homework tasks that take up to 30-45 minutes resulting in up to **3.5 and 5 hours per week**.

There may be certain weeks where subjects set less homework depending on where students are in the curriculum. However, **subjects will endeavour to never exceed this amount of homework during each week**. Students are also **expected to spend more time on homework each week in the lead-up to termly assessments and end of year examinations**. Departments will always ensure that revision homework tasks in these weeks direct students to specific resources and revision materials.

Students choose from the following options in **Performing Arts and Art**: Music, Drama, Dance and Art. Students will only receive homework from their chosen subject options

Term 1							
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7	Week 8
None set	English Maths Science Perf.Arts/Art Spanish	English Maths Science Computing Geography RE	English Maths Science History DT Spanish	English Maths Science Geography Perf.Arts/Art	English Maths Science RE DT Spanish	English Maths Science History	None set

Term 2						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science Perf.Arts/Art Spanish	English Maths Science Computing Geography RE	English Maths Science History DT Spanish	English Maths Science Geography Perf.Arts/Art	English Maths Science RE DT Spanish	English Maths Science History	None set

Term 3					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science Perf.Arts/Art Spanish	English Maths Science Computing Geography RE	English Maths Science History DT Spanish	English Maths Science Geography Perf.Arts/Art RE	English Maths Science Spanish History DT	None set

Term 4				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
English Maths Science Computing Geography	English Maths Science History RE Spanish	English Maths Science Geography Perf.Arts/Art DT	Year 9 Exams Students will not be set any additional homework during this week beyond revision tasks.	None set

Term 5					
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
English Maths Science Perf.Arts/Art Spanish	English Maths Science Computing Geography RE	English Maths Science History DT Spanish	English Maths Science Geography Perf.Arts/Art RE	English Maths Science Spanish History DT	None set

Term 6						
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
English Maths Science Perf.Arts/Art Spanish	English Maths Science Computing Geography RE	English Maths Science History DT Spanish	English Maths Science Geography Perf.Arts/Art RE	English Maths Science Spanish History DT	English Maths Science	None set

*Students will not receive any homework in week 7 of term 6 as this will not leave enough time for students to complete tasks before the end of the academic year.