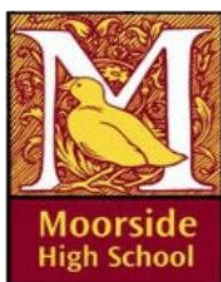




# Moorside High School

## Homework Policy

rev. September 2025



**Date Reviewed:** September 2025  
**Date of Next Review:** September 2026  
**Reviewed by:** Quality of Education Governors

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## General Principles & Context

It is generally agreed both by practitioners and through research that homework forms an important part of the learning process and that, where homework is designed to complement classwork and is integral to a programme of study, achievement is raised. (Hattie 2003)

Through undertaking homework, pupils learn how to work independently, how to apply key study skills, how to meet deadlines and time constraints and how to practise skills which cannot easily be developed within a classroom situation. They become active partners in the learning process and begin to take responsibility for their own learning.

They require a suitable environment in which to carry out homework tasks, and the school is aware that this may sometimes be a problem for certain individuals.

The school expects parents to be fully supportive of its homework policy, recognising that parents are instrumental in any success. Parents, as much as their children, need to understand why homework is set, how much can be expected, that it will be marked/assessed appropriately and promptly and that rewards and sanctions will be applied consistently by all staff in the implementation of the homework policy. However, parents need also to recognise their own responsibility in encouraging their child, in monitoring that homework is completed and in supporting the school in its application of rewards and sanctions.

Successful use of homework requires time to be spent by the teacher in planning and preparing homework tasks so that they are meaningful and accessible to pupils of all abilities. This planning is better done by teams/departments where possible rather than individuals.

## Intent

At Moorside High School, our curriculum is designed to support our students to engage and achieve. Homework plays a vital role in achieving our educational goal of subject mastery by focusing on the consolidation of learning and preparing students for synoptic assessments.

Our Homework policy is designed to support:

- Consolidation – the reinforcement of knowledge and skills acquired during classroom learning by offering students an opportunity to practice, apply and review their learning promoting long term retention.
- Independence – nurturing self-directed learners who take ownership of their learning. The tasks set will encourage learners to take responsibility for their learning by encouraging self-study outside the classroom. Students will develop the ability to research, explore differing perspectives and solve problems.
- Critical thinking – promoting analytical reasoning and problem solving. This may involve open ended question, research-based projects, or problem-solving exercising. This encourages creative thinking, build evaluative skills, and encourages students to arrive at well-reasoned conclusion.
- Time management – builds a crucial skill which prepares students for life beyond education. Setting assignments with both short- and medium-term deadlines helps students to learn to prioritise tasks, work efficiently and meet deadlines.
- Reflection – students will receive feedback from their teachers which helps them to highlight areas for improvement and foster a growth mindset in their studies.
- Well- being and balance – our policy is designed to consider the well-being of our students by helping them to maintain a healthy balance between school and personal life. We have considered the importance of leisure time, personal development opportunities and family commitments. Independent learning tasks are meaningful, manageable, and purposeful.

## Implementation

1. Departments are given an allocation at the beginning of the year which sets out guidance on the quantity of Homework that teachers should expect students to undertake in their subject. Students and parents are also given a copy of the guidance for planning purposes. (*see Appendix One 'MHS Homework Guidance'*).

In general, at Key Stage 3, students are expected to spend between 30 minutes to 1 hour on Maths Sparx tasks, and 30 minutes to 1 hour on each task set in other subjects. However, it is not always appropriate or useful for Homework to be set, and teachers will use their professional discretion where appropriate. Tasks which do not contribute to learning and which are set simply to fulfil the guidance are discouraged. At KS3, Homework will not generally be set for completion during school holiday periods, unless it is an important task, e.g., revision towards an assessment following a half term holiday. If a child is ill, they will only be expected to catch up with essential tasks, with extended deadlines which will be negotiated with the teacher.

Year 7 have a phased start to Homework with a focus on using Sparx effectively and developing good revision habits using the first half term with other subjects being added during the second half term.

At Key Stage 4, the nature of the work in different subjects varies considerably - in some subjects, regular short tasks are appropriate, whereas in others a sustained and time-consuming longer assignment or piece of coursework may be required, spanning several weeks. Where longer tasks are set the deadlines set by staff will be reflective of this.

Students are expected to spend between **30 mins to 1 hour on Sparx tasks** for Maths and between **30 mins to 1 hour** on each task set in other subjects. They can choose to spend more than the required amount of time on Sparx.

For KS4 students the focus of Homework tasks is on consolidation of their learning. This may include practising key skills, completing practice exam papers or questions, creating revision materials or pre-reading to prepare students for a lesson in advance.

2. Homework tasks are set using Teams Assignments, with the required resources attached for download at home. Students are encouraged to download the appropriate application onto a suitable digital device so that Homework messages can be retrieved when necessary. Guidance for students and parents has been shared via Tutor Time, the school bulletin and parents' communication channels.
3. If on occasion, specific tasks are not set for KS4 students, they are expected to complete their own independent revision making use of resources on the school website. [GCSE Examinations - Moorside High School](#)
4. Teachers apply sanctions consistently and appropriately for non-completion or late submission of tasks, according to school behaviour policy, whilst still being flexible enough to accommodate specific situations and individuals
5. Teachers reward excellence and effort in tasks completed by implementing the Moorside High School reward system by awarding house points.
6. The school gives parents details, at least annually, on the course content for each subject within each year, with advice and information on how parents might support their child in his/her home study; this could be through the School Website Learning Journeys, KS4 Options booklets; Parents Evenings or through specifically organised events.
7. The school offers provision in school for those who do not have an appropriate environment or support at home for Homework, and for those who prefer to undertake work in school. This may be offered within departments on a subject basis, or as a whole-school initiative in the form of a Homework club.
8. Parents are encouraged to provide a suitable environment for their child to undertake study at home, and to monitor the completion of Homework tasks.
9. Subject teachers will arrange for appropriate feedback to be given on tasks completed independently, according to the school marking, assessment, recording and reporting policy.
10. The school leadership team monitor the quality of the Homework set and the number of students who complete Homework to the required standard.

11. This policy is reviewed annually by the Leadership Team and Governors so that any amendments or alterations can be made in light of current practice.



## Appendix 1: MHS Homework Guidance 2025 – 2026

### Intent

As detailed in our Homework policy at Moorside High School, our curriculum is designed to support our students to engage and achieve. Homework plays a vital role in achieving our educational goals by extending learning beyond the classroom and fostering personal development.

This guidance is designed to give teachers, parents and students direction on how much Homework students should undertake in addition to their studies at school.

### Implementation

#### Sparx

Sparx is a personalised learning platform that aims to support and supplement students' learning in Maths and English by providing tailored resources and interactive exercises aligned with their individual needs. Students may not always complete the tasks set during the time allocated by their teacher for the task. Completing the amount of time allocated is the requirement NOT the completion of a task.

You can always complete MORE Sparx than the expectation if you wish to.

All students have a Sparx log in assigned to them. This is their school email address and password. Queries about Sparx log ins should be directed to C Mickleburgh (Maths) and E Morley (English)

## KS3 Homework Guidance

At KS3 the focus of Homework is to build positive habits such as time management and to consolidate learning in core subjects and engage students' interests in the wider curriculum.

Sparx is the basis of Homework for Maths. Foundation subjects cater for different learning styles, interests, and abilities by offering opportunities for creative expression, collaboration, independent research.

Each week, Maths Homework will be set via Sparx. Students should spend **between 30 minutes and 1 hour** completing these tasks.

In addition, students should spend **up to 30 minutes per week** on Homework tasks as per the list below to ensure that a balance of subjects is achieved. If longer Homework tasks are set by staff such as project work, the deadline will be reflective of this. Deadlines for tasks should be **no less than one week** from the date the work was set. Sparx tasks run from Monday to Monday (7 days for students to complete the tasks set).

## Year 7 and Year 8 Homework Guidance

SPARX expectations are as follows:

- **Maths** – 30 minutes per week

Homework expectations for English and Science are as follows:

- **English** – 30 minutes per week
- **Science** – 30 minutes per week

In addition to Maths, English and Science weekly homework, students will complete **fortnightly Homework** for all other subjects as listed below:

- **History** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **Geography** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **RE** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **Computing** – 30 minutes fortnightly
- **German** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **Art** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **DT** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **Food Technology** - 30 minutes fortnightly
- **Music** - 30 minutes fortnightly

## KS4 Homework Guidance

At KS4 the focus of Homework is to support students in their preparation for external examinations at the end of Y11 by consolidating key knowledge and skills in subjects, and developing critical thinking, and reflection.

Homework tasks at KS4 will focus primarily on consolidation work such as creating revision resources in preparation for assessments in a topic. These resources should be kept as part of the overall revision towards a student's final GCSE examination. Occasionally, it could include preparation for upcoming lessons, for example pre-reading on a topic to be studied in lesson.



If no specific task is set by the teacher, students should spend 30 minutes on their own independent revision making use of resources on the school website. [GCSE Examinations - Moorside High School](#)

## Years 9 and 10 Homework Guidance

SPARX expectations are as follows:

- **Maths** – 40 minutes per week

Homework expectations for English and Science are as follows:

- **English** – 40 minutes per week
- **Science** – 30 minutes fortnightly per subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

In addition to Maths, English and Science weekly homework, students will complete **fortnightly Homework** for all other subjects as listed below:

- **Option subjects** – 40 minutes fortnightly
- **RE** – 30 minutes fortnightly
- **Languages** – 40 minutes fortnightly

## Year 11 Homework Guidance

SPARX expectations are as follows:

- **Maths** – 60 minutes per week

Homework expectations for English and Science are as follows:

- **English** – 60 minutes per week
- **Science** – 40 minutes fortnightly per subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

In addition to Maths, English and Science weekly homework, students will complete **fortnightly Homework** for all other subjects as listed below:

- **Option subjects** – 60 minutes fortnightly
- **RE** – 40 minutes fortnightly
- **Languages** – 60 minutes fortnightly