

## Rationale

At Millthorpe School, we recognise the educational benefit of setting quality homework regularly. Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) research proves that homework can add up to 5 months progress, whilst completing work away from the classroom helps to develop students' independence, builds good study skills and helps them to take control of their own learning. Homework also enables teachers to identify gaps in knowledge, misconceptions and inform their future planning for the benefit of all students.

We are also careful to ensure that students have sufficient time for extracurricular activities, clubs, hobbies and interests, as well as socialising and family time. To help with this, teachers give sufficient time for the students to complete the task. Teachers do not set homework that is due the next school day unless it is a very short (maximum 10 mins) consolidation or preparation task that is essential for the next day's lesson.

## Key Stage 3

The vast majority of Key Stage 3 homework tasks are automatically assessed using an online platform chosen by each department. There is the flexibility to set alternative homework tasks but auto-assessed online homework is the default homework. Where departments are using a platform other than Google Classroom, the homework will still be uploaded to Google Classroom with a link to the relevant platform. This means that all students know that all of their homework is available in one place. Students will be provided logins for the platforms and will write these in their planner.

## English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Subjects

Subject	Amount	Platform
English	1 hour per fortnight	Sparx Reader - Auto assessed
Maths	1 hour per fortnight	Sparx Maths - Auto assessed
Science	1 hour per fortnight	Sparx Science or Seneca - Auto assessed
History	30 minutes per fortnight	Google Classroom - Auto assessed
Geography	30 minutes per fortnight	Seneca/Educake - Auto assessed
Languages	30 minutes per fortnight	Quizlet/Memrise/Google Classroom - Auto assessed
Computing	30 minutes per fortnight	Seneca/Google Classroom - Auto assessed

## Non-English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Subjects

Extension homework tasks will be set in all Non-EBacc subjects. All students are encouraged to complete all homework tasks. However, we recognise that young people may want to prioritise subjects where they have a strong interest, and are confident that they will choose it as a GCSE Option. Therefore, whilst homework will be available in all of these subjects as outlined below, students will not receive sanctions if they are unable to complete it. They should complete all of the tasks as far as is reasonably practicable. All homework assignments will be uploaded to Google Classroom with links to other platforms where appropriate.

Subject	Amount
RE	30 minutes per fortnight
Drama	30 minutes per fortnight
Music	30 minutes per fortnight
PE	30 minutes per fortnight
Design Technology	30 minutes per fortnight
Art	30 minutes per fortnight

## Key Stage 4

There is more flexibility in KS4, with all teachers able to set the homework task of their choosing. This may utilise online self-assessing platforms, but students should expect a variety of homework tasks. All KS4 homework will be assessed

either by the teacher, self, peer or automatic assessment, or used in the "due date" lesson. All KS4 homework will be uploaded to Google Classroom as an Assignment, with links to other platforms where applicable.

- English, Maths and Science - 1 hour per week.
- All other GCSE subjects - 1 hour per fortnight.

### Setting Deadlines

- KS3 - all homework has a deadline of 1-2 weeks.
- KS4 - English, Maths and Science - a minimum of 2 days for every 1 hours' worth of homework.
- KS4 - all other subjects - a minimum of 2 days for every 30 minutes' worth of homework.

### Support

To support students who have limited access to devices/internet connection, those who prefer to complete school work in school, or those who struggle to manage their homework and fail to submit it, the library is open at lunchtime and after school daily (apart from after school on Wednesday). There is also the opportunity for students with SEND needs to complete their homework in LSC1 after school on Monday and Tuesday. LSC1 is also open and available every lunchtime. There are Teaching Assistants available to help SEND students who have access to LSCs with their homework at these times.

### Sanctions - KS3 EBacc Subjects and all subjects at KS4

- One "Homework Issue" entry on ClassCharts for every non-submission, or poorly completed homework.
- A thirty minute detention will automatically be awarded on ClassCharts for every 3 "Homework Issue" entries.
- Regular data trawls will identify key students who have issues with Homework for intervention/follow up.
- Teachers will telephone or email home if a persistent pattern of non/poor submission emerges. Students will be invited to use the Library at lunch/after school.
- Regular data trawls will identify key students who have issues with Homework for intervention/follow up.

### Homework questions, feedback and requests

- All homework tasks should be explained fully on Google Classroom and written in your child's planner. If your child has an issue with a particular homework task, please email [admin@millthorpe.elt.org.uk](mailto:admin@millthorpe.elt.org.uk) and our Admin Team will forward your communication to the most appropriate colleague.

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### 1. How much help should I provide to my child with their homework?

The online homework tasks should ordinarily be completed independently by the student. They should check their school book, knowledge organisers or research online if they are struggling. Parental support should ordinarily be limited to asking their child what homework they have, checking their Planner and Google Classroom, and ensuring that it is completed on time, and to the best of their ability. Removing distractions such as mobile phones (unless they are using their phone to do the homework) would be helpful. At Key Stage 4, if you are able to provide support and guidance with a particular homework task, please do, but again, students should be completing their homework independently with minimal support from parents and carers unless they are really struggling. Students or parents should contact [admin@millthorpe.elt.org.uk](mailto:admin@millthorpe.elt.org.uk) if a homework task is proving really tricky and taking longer than is intended.

#### 2. How will I know what homework my child has?

All homework will be set on Google Classroom, with links to appropriate platforms and wider information where applicable, and written in their Planner with a due date.

#### 3. How long should my child be spending on homework?

Please see the tables above for guidance on how long they should spend on homework.

#### 4. What do I do if my child won't engage with their homework?

Speak to them about the importance of homework and that we are trying to ensure that the knowledge taught in class is consolidated by their homework. This helps long term memory and will result in better academic outcomes. Use the "Rationale" section at the top of this document to support you in this conversation. Contact [admin@millthorpe.elt.org.uk](mailto:admin@millthorpe.elt.org.uk) if you need further support.

#### 5. What do I do if my child has limited access to a device or internet connection?

Encourage them to complete their homework in school - in the library, or in LSC1 if they have a Special Educational Need.

**6. What happens if we have a temporary issue with our internet connection/device and my child cannot meet a homework deadline?**

Encourage your child to complete their homework early, rather than leaving it to the last minute. If there is an issue, they can complete it in the library, and if there is a last minute issue, write a note in their planner explaining the issue and your child will not be sanctioned.

**7. My child has SEN and homework is a huge barrier. What should they do?**

Any child with a Special Educational Need has a profile. This can include a stipulation that they are not sanctioned for poorly submitted or missing homework. Please speak to the SEND Department ([SEND@millthorpe.elt.org.uk](mailto:SEND@millthorpe.elt.org.uk)) if you are unsure if your child has this arrangement in place and you feel it is necessary. Also, they can use LSC1 at certain times if this is helpful.

**8. We do not have an internet connection and/or a suitable device. Can we get these from the school?**

The school has limited funding available to students eligible for the Pupil Premium. If your child is happy to complete their homework in school, they should use the library/LSC1 to do so. If you feel you really need a device or an internet dongle, please contact your child's Head of Year and we will explore this.