



Baines School

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The Governors of Baines School
Homework Guidance Policy

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What are the benefits of homework?

Homework gives students the opportunity to review and practise the learning from lessons as well as prepare for future lessons. It is important that this work is done independently when the student can look over the work with a clear head, away from friends and distractions. Homework reinforces and extends the learning that takes place in the classroom, allowing students more time to explore subjects than classroom time permits.

Homework can develop research skills and can allow students the opportunity to respond to teachers' feedback. Homework also helps students to prepare themselves for the next day's learning.

Homework provides parents/carers with the opportunity to be involved in their child's learning on a daily basis to provide praise, encouragement and/or support.

Homework develops perseverance and independence. It teaches students to develop their time management, to plan and to organise their work and to prioritise. These are key skills in preparing for working life.

Synergy

Baines School subscribes to Synergy and our teachers will set homework on this. Parents and pupils receive a log-in to monitor the homework that has been set. Synergy allows teachers to upload links and resources for pupils to access.

Homework - How Much?

Baines School operates a 2-week timetable. The amount of homework per night that students receive will vary and some pieces of homework will take longer than others as students may be working on completing projects or extended pieces of work, such as in Creative Arts.

The guidance below shows the amount of homework you can expect your child(ren) to complete each fortnight.

Year 7: Teachers will set students in Year 7 one homework per week in English and Maths of around 30 minutes. All other subjects may set one weekly task lasting around 20 minutes or a longer piece lasting around 40 minutes every fortnight.

Years 8 & 9: Teachers will set students in Years 8 & 9 one homework per week in English and Maths of around 45 minutes. All other subjects may set one weekly task lasting around 30 minutes or a longer piece lasting around 60 minutes every fortnight. In Year 8 Science teachers will set a 30-minute homework each week or a longer piece of around 60 minutes each fortnight. In Year 9 students will receive one piece of Biology, Chemistry and Physics of around 45 minutes each fortnight.

Students may, of course, pursue additional research and learning for their studies or based on personal interests. Students should also revise through work regularly. Students should also regularly revise through topics covered during the year in preparation for internal examinations.

Years 10 & 11: All examined subjects will set students in Years 10 & 11 one homework per week. Students will be expected to work on each subject for around 45-60 minutes per week.

Students in Key Stage 4 should find time to regularly revise the topics covered throughout their courses in preparation for the end of course examinations as well as prelim and mock exams. They should use their notes, revision guides, GCSEPod, past exam papers and other internet-based resources.

In addition to the homework set we strongly recommend that your child(ren) continue(s) to develop their reading. Reading around the subjects they study is important to develop links between what they learn.

The value of reading for pleasure cannot be underestimated. Reading fiction is associated with higher levels of empathy and improved relationships with others. Reading for pleasure is linked to a reduction in depression and a reduced risk of dementia.

What types of homework can my child expect?

Homework comes in many different forms from extended project work to short exercise-style activities. Teachers may direct students to appropriate internet-based resources. The purpose of all forms of homework is to embed and extend learning.

Creative tasks:

Through creative tasks, e.g. making a model of a particular system, students can better visualise a process/theory.

Research tasks:

Teachers may ask students to research a particular event or person

Interactive websites:

Using interactive websites students receive instant feedback from their results.

Flipped Learning:

Students learn content prior to the lesson so that the lesson time deepens discussion and concentrates on problem solving. This allows teachers to work with students on aspects they don't yet understand.

Revision:

Revising is crucial to the learning process. Revision may be in the form of learning new vocabulary or definitions. All students will be expected to revise topics for internal assessments, including end-of-year exams. With coursework or controlled assessment no longer a feature of most public exams, this has never been more important.

MRI (My Response is):

Students are asked to respond to teachers' feedback on their work to extend knowledge or clear up misunderstandings.

Projects:

Students must organise their time and workload to complete a certain task or range of tasks. Students must break this down to manageable chunks and work on these tasks regularly.

Takeaway homework:

Students choose from a 'menu' of activities, provided by the teacher. They select the most suitable based on need and personal preference. Students will usually complete a range of different types of

How to best support you child in getting the most from their homework

In order for your child to get the most out of homework helping them to structure their time and their environment is essential, as is taking an interest in their homework.

- Ensure that homework is a priority and make it a daily topic of conversation.
- Check Synergy regularly to see what your child's teachers have set.
- Find time to talk to your son/daughter about their homework. You will see whether they need praise, help or encouragement. You will be able to help them if they are stuck or point them to where they can find help.
- Help your child to organise their time around other commitments.
- Set a time for homework (e.g. after the evening meal) so that your child gets into a routine.
- Ensure that your child has a space where they can work that is light and fairly quiet and they will not be disturbed.
- Remove unnecessary distractions like mobile phones (and even pets!) & turn down the television.
- Support school's actions if homework is incomplete or unsatisfactory.

A good night's sleep

Once homework has been completed a good night's sleep is essential to your child(ren)'s development. Of course, they will want to switch off from their studies however, increasingly, studies reveal that our young people are sleeping increasingly less well due to the amount 'screen time' on computers, phones and tablets. Limiting a young person's daily screen time promotes better sleep, particularly in the hour(s) directly before sleep, aiding both the onset and the quality of sleep.

Independent Learning Centre

The school's Independent Learning Centre (ILC) is open every day for pupils to work in their own time until 4pm. This is an ideal space for pupils to find a quiet space to work at the end of the school day. We offer computers, reference materials and tables.

Our ILC is open before school from 8am as well as at break time and lunch time if pupils need to print off work.