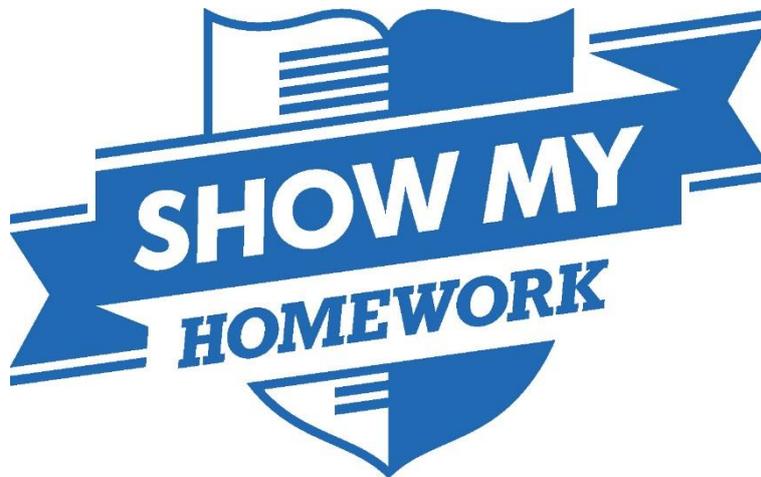


Aboyne Academy



**Parental
Information
Leaflet**

Homework Policy



Introduction

The partnership between home and school can be clearly seen in the case of homework. Success depends upon both home and school providing support and encouragement to pupils.

To support the partnership between pupils, parents and school, Aboyne Academy uses the Show My Homework website to publish all homework. This can be accessed from a quick link on the Aboyne Academy website homepage and an App can also be downloaded for individual pupil and parent devices. The school provides individual login details to all pupils and their parents in order that specific information relating to issued homework and deadlines is readily available.

The information below aims to provide you with key information about the school's Homework Policy. We hope it will answer any questions you may have about the homework that your son or daughter will get at school.

Purposes and Aims of Homework

The main purpose of homework is to encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own. A balanced and planned approach to homework contributes to a pupil's overall chances of personal success at school. Homework includes giving pupils the opportunity to:

- plan and organise their time
- develop good study habits, self-discipline, independent learning and to take responsibility for their own progress
- develop research skills by accessing resources not available in school e.g. online, in libraries, in collaboration with other people
- consolidate, practice, finish, supplement or extend work done in class
- prepare for school assessments and examinations
- develop a variety of different skills, higher-order thinking, overcome difficulties and solve problems

Homework is an integral part of Aboyne Academy's positive ethos and will aim to ensure our pupils aim high and maximise their opportunities. Furthermore, homework promotes and increases parental awareness and involvement.

Homework does make a significant difference to how well individual pupils succeed at school.

What form might homework take?

With the full implementation of Curriculum for Excellence now embedded across both the Broad General Education and Senior Phase in Aboyne Academy, it is recognised that homework and expectations around this have changed and evolved.

Homework is set at an appropriate level and extends each individual by being challenging and yet manageable. Different tasks may be set or the same task at different levels to individual students. Teachers should aim provide appropriate individual support and take into account how much time individual pupils will need to complete a task.

Homework can take various forms and the type of homework will vary from subject to subject. Some of the tasks given may include:

Investigations	Interviewing / collaboration	Simple experiments	Essay writing	Learning work
Research	Public Library visits	Drafting and re-drafting	Report writing	Vocabulary practice
Reading	Designing	Revision	Making a simple model	Spelling
Drawing	Word Processing	Desktop Publishing	Project work	Formulae learning
Coursework	Fieldwork	Accessing the Internet, GLOW and Show My Homework	Completing tasks started in class	Practicing and repetition of a variety of skills
Keeping fit or sporting tasks	Learning lines	Practicing musical instruments	Watching recommended TV programmes	Re-reading notes from lessons each week

These are only some of the kinds of homework that may be given. Different subjects will provide opportunities to practise different skills and learn in different ways.

Quantity of homework

The amount of time pupils should spend on homework tasks varies between year groups and courses. It may also depend on the nature of the subject or the type of course work being done at the time.

- In general homework is given on a planned and regular basis related to the number of subject lessons per week.
- The time spent on homework is likely to increase as the pupil gets older.
- In addition to the formal homework tasks that are set pupils always have the regular routine task of revising and reading over work done in class. This can also include extending and tidying up written work done in class.

Senior pupils (S4-6) should be applying themselves regularly and consistently to private study both in school periods and at home. This should form a considerable part of each evening and parts of the weekend. It is obviously anticipated that examination preparation would require significant additional time and pupils must forward plan accordingly.

The Role of the Pupil

It is the **responsibility of the pupil to submit homework in on time**, having produced it to the highest standard possible.

It is the responsibility of the pupil to:

- Ensure that they take a clear note of **all** homework - what has to be done and when the homework is due in their Planners, if they decide not to use the Show My Homework website
- Find out any work missed due to absence, complete this and submit with the agreement of the teacher
- Prepare for subject assessments as notified
- Seek advice and help from staff if necessary **before** the homework due date. At Aboyne Academy we operate an open door policy between all pupils and staff for help or assistance
- Plan their personal study timetable
- Use study periods and study leave productively in the Senior Phase
- Meet all deadlines both internal and external

The Role of the Parent

Research shows that parents have an extremely important partnership role to play in assisting their child to succeed. They can help by:

- Ensuring the child completes homework regularly
- Encouraging a positive attitude to study
- Providing a suitable study place free from distractions e.g. working in a warm and well lit part of the house; providing a flat surface to work on such as a desk or table; encouraging them to work away from distractions such as the TV or mobile phone
- Helping the child establish a homework routine and not to leave it until the night before it is due
- Encouraging productive use of homework time even when homework has not been set by the school e.g. reading programmes, research, consolidation of learning and revision
- Communicating with the school on any problems which relate to homework
- Taking a positive and active interest in what is being done
- Reinforcing the value of homework

If your child is absent from school please ensure that they find out the classwork and homework they have missed. It will be your child's responsibility to arrange with the teacher an agreed timescale to complete missed work.

If your child is unable to attend school for an extended period but **can** work at home, then you should contact the child's Guidance Teacher or Depute Head of House to request work as appropriate.

The Role of the School

We will:

- Ensure that all homework tasks and assessment notifications are populated on our Show My Homework website
- Promote a positive attitude to homework and continue to develop high expectations for all
- Ensure that appropriate homework is set and regular feedback provided
- Ensure that Homework is attainable and differentiated according to pupil ability
- Support the completion of homework tasks
- Provide opportunities for pupils to study outwith class time through the use of the library and study classes as appropriate and available
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the Homework Policy to ensure an effective and consistent approach to homework for Aboyne Academy

Further support for Homework tasks

It is anticipated that the Show My Homework website and App should enhance the good work already carried out by pupils when completing homework. While the vast majority of pupils understand the importance of homework and take a positive and responsible approach to it, there may be circumstances where non-completion of homework becomes a concern.

Should pupils fail to complete or to make a positive attempt at a homework task then teachers may use a range of strategies in response to this, as deemed appropriate. In Aboyne Academy, the high expectations we have for all means that each individual pupil will be expected to complete all of the work and tasks set. Support will be put in place if there are difficulties and this may mean pupils complete the work in their own time at break and/or lunchtime.

It is possible that if we have concerns about your son or daughter's homework then either the Faculty Head, Guidance Teacher or Depute Head Teacher will be in contact with you. Please be assured that should this be necessary, we will be seeking to work with you to address the concern with the best interests of your child as our main objective.

We hope you have found the information above useful. However, should you have any specific or general questions about homework then please get in touch with your son or daughter's Guidance Teacher or Depute Head of House who will be happy to help.