

Mearns Academy

## Policies and Procedures



## Learning at home

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*Article 29 Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.*

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## Introduction

The learning activities pupils undertake out with school are of key importance to support, consolidate, reinforce and extend the learning that takes place in the classroom.

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.

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

Mearns Academy welcomes discussion on any issue relating to your child's education, including homework. If you have any queries please contact your child's Principal Teacher of Guidance in the first instance

## What does 'Learning at home' involve?

Learning at home includes:

- **Self-Directed Study** - Tasks set by the learner to reinforce and extend their learning Reflection.
- **Daily routine** - Of looking back over class work covered including asking 3 key questions;
  - What did we do?
  - Why did we do it?
  - What was I supposed to learn?
- **Revision** - Tasks which involve consolidating learning and working towards assessment.
- **Online** – Use of online revision materials including GLOW and SCHOLAR.
- **Homework** - Tasks set by a teacher to be completed by a deadline.
  - The amount of set homework a young person is given will vary depending on: age and stage of the young person, chosen subjects, Internal assessments and SQA deadlines. The time spent on homework is likely to increase as the pupil gets further through school.
  - Senior pupils (S4-6) should be applying themselves regularly and consistently to private study at home. This should form a considerable part of each evening and parts of the weekend. It is anticipated that examination preparation will require significant additional time.

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*Success for young people also relies (along with good teaching) on the homework and self-directed learning that they do out of school hours, and classroom teaching flourishes when good teaching and self-directed learning meet. We know that those who are going to do well in life are marked out by their self-esteem, their motivation and their ability to take responsibility for their own learning."*

*Professor John MacBeath (Emeritus Professor Cambridge University)*

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## ‘Set Homework’

For homework that has been issued by the class teacher it is the **responsibility of the pupil to submit homework 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.
- Prepare for subject assessments.
- Seek advice and help from staff if necessary **before** the homework due date.
- Plan their personal study timetable. Use study periods and study leave productively.
- Meet deadlines

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

<b>Investigations</b>	<b>Interviewing</b>	<b>Simple experiments</b>	<b>Essay writing</b>	<b>Learning work</b>
<b>Research</b>	<b>Public Library visits</b>	<b>Drafting &amp; redrafting</b>	<b>Report writing</b>	<b>Vocabulary practice</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>Designing</b>	<b>Revision</b>	<b>Making a simple model</b>	<b>Spelling</b>
<b>Drawing</b>	<b>Word Processing</b>	<b>Desktop Publishing</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Learning formulae</b>
<b>Coursework</b>	<b>Watching recommended T.V. programmes</b>	<b>Accessing the Internet and GLOW</b>	<b>Completing tasks started in class or missed tasks</b>	<b>Practicing skills / rehearsing</b>
<b>Fieldwork</b>		<b>Keep fit or sporting tasks</b>		<b>Listening activities</b>

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.

## How can parents/carers support at home?

Research shows that a parent/carer has an extremely important partnership role to play in assisting their child to succeed. The parent/carer can help by:

- Helping their child to understand that home learning is wider than just set homework tasks.
- Encouraging their child to reflect on their learning in and out of school.
- Ensuring their child has a place to study and the necessary resources (e.g. calculator, dictionary).
- Checking the quality and presentation of work.
- Asking their child to explain a piece of class work / homework.
- Testing rote learning e.g. French vocabulary, formulae.
- Establishing routines and rewarding good effort.
- Encouraging personal reading.
- Communicating with the school on any problems which relate to homework.

## What online resources are available?

There are a wide range of online resources available including Mearns specific resources which are on Faculty GLOW sites. Please find below a sample of resources, further resources are provided by each Faculty and class teacher.

### English

<https://education.gov.scot/nationalqualifications/resources>

<https://www.scotslanguage.com/articles/view/id/5311>

<http://www.brightredbooks.net/subjects/>

### Health and Leisure

<https://www.satpe.co.uk/satpe-student-notes/>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/subjects/zctsr82>

### Maths

GLOW

Additional Resources:

[https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign\\_in?to=%2Fteacher-dashboard%23%2F](https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in?to=%2Fteacher-dashboard%23%2F)

<https://www.mangahigh.com/en-gb/>

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/>

For the Senior Phase:

<https://www.national5maths.co.uk/>

<https://www.highermathematics.co.uk/>

<https://www.advancedhighermaths.co.uk/>

<https://corbettmaths.com/contents/>

## The Role of the School

As a school we will:

- Promote a positive attitude to learning at home and develop high expectations.
- Ensure resources are available.
- Ensure, when appropriate, that homework is set and regular feedback provided.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to study out with class time through the use of the library and study support classes if available.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the homework to ensure there is an effective and consistent approach.