

Maple Medical PRU

Homework policy

Maple Medical PRU believes that homework is an essential part of pupils' learning. Homework is defined as 'any work or activities which pupils are asked to do outside lesson time, either on their own or with parents or carers' This homework policy documents how the PRU sets homework and how parents/ carers can support their children in the completion of homework tasks.

The purpose of homework;

- to raise pupil achievement
- to consolidate and reinforce pupils' skills, knowledge, and understanding
- to develop in pupils, the confidence and self discipline which will enable them to take responsibility for their own learning
- to extend school learning
- to prepare pupils for the transition back to mainstream school (where appropriate)
- to develop an effective partnership between the school and home

The type of homework

The main focus of homework and activities will be on the core curriculum, i.e. maths, English, science. Homework for other subject areas will be set as is deemed necessary. Homework will be differentiated in order that all pupils can access the tasks at their own levels.

The amount of homework

The precise amount of time set for homework is less important than the intrinsic value of the tasks. The amount of homework set will vary for each pupil and service area as many of our pupils attend for different amounts of time and their needs and barriers to learning also differ greatly. Pupils have recently been consulted on this and generally felt that 1 hour per school night was reasonable so that a pupil who attends Maple for 2 days would expect to have approximately 2 hours a week from us.

Homework in Mulberry

In Mulberry homework is set termly, where students are expected to complete 12 different tasks and record them in their dedicated homework book. These tasks can vary from academic tasks; life skills tasks; and social skills based task. All tasks are designed to engage all students and give them a sense of enjoyment when completing them. Due to the nature of the students in Mulberry completing homework is not mandatory. However, students are encouraged to complete homework both in and out of school. This is done through homework club (a dedicated 30 minute slot every Wednesday Lunchtime) and via rewards.

Planning

In setting and planning homework, teachers

- plan homework as an integral part of their curriculum planning
- consider the pupils' specific circumstances when setting deadlines
- set tasks which can be completed within the allocated time, and that are matched, as far as possible, to the abilities of the pupils
- set homework so that it matches the context of a specific topic or subject
- give reasonable time for its completion
- ensure homework is marked in line with the PRU's marking policy
- provide feedback to pupils on their progress

Role of parents/ carers

In general, wherever possible, parents /carers should;

- provide a reasonable peaceful suitable place for doing homework
- make it clear to their children that they value homework and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress
- expect deadlines to be met and check that they are
- communicate with the school any issues that may affect their ability to complete set tasks
- Support childcare, (if possible), if their child is a young mum, in order to have time to complete tasks

If homework is not completed

While we do not punish pupils for not doing homework, every effort will be made to understand the reasons why. Parents/ carers will also be communicated with on this matter and where appropriate, opportunities will be given to pupils to help them with this, such as homework club, one to one sessions with their teachers or support staff and resources such as a laptop may also be provided. All pupils have access to online learning opportunities.

Monitoring and evaluation

Policy and guidelines are subject to regular review and evaluation by the Senior Leadership team and Management Committee. Regular work scrutiny and learning walks by the Senior Leadership team will be carried out to ensure quality of homework and feedback.

Date of Policy – October 2018

Date of Review – October 2020

Signed

Head teacher

Chair Management Committee