

Belfast Model School for Girls
Achievement for All



Key Stage 4 Homework Policy

Agreed by Board of Governors: Oct 2011 To be reviewed: Oct 2014

Rationale

The Belfast Model School for Girls believes that homework is essential to our pupils' learning and to their academic and personal development. We believe that homework is an important vehicle for promoting independence and a sense of responsibility and a means of raising pupil achievement.

Purposes

Through homework tasks:

Pupils have opportunities:

- To consolidate and extend learning in the classroom
- To practise and become more confident in developing cross curricular core skills (ICT, Using Mathematics and Communication) and thinking skills and personal capabilities
- To carry out individual research
- To develop self-discipline, independence and initiative

School has opportunities:

- To strengthen home-school relationships
- To provide opportunities for assessment, including Assessment for Learning
- To raise attainment for all pupils

Parents have opportunities:

To be more involved in their daughter's education and help her to develop academically and personally.

General Guidelines

(Revised policy begins in Year 11 in 2011-12 and rolls out across KS4 2012-13)

- All subjects are expected to set appropriate and challenging homework across Year 11
- All departments should have a subject specific Homework Policy based on the nature of the subject and its assessment e.g. the controlled assessment, continual assessment and/or the final assessment.
- Homework activities with assessment criteria should be signposted and incorporated into planning for each subject.

- Pupils need to learn time-management and organisational skills as they progress through school but it is difficult to be prescriptive about homework at KS4. Departments need to ensure that pupils adhere to agreed deadlines for the submission of assignments and that sanctions are in place when deadlines are missed (see guidelines on sanctions)
- Homework tasks should be differentiated to reflect variation in ability and include a variety of tasks/activities e.g. written assignments, reading, mapwork, personal research, learning, past papers, revision etc.
- The assessment of homework follows school policy on Assessment, including Assessment for Learning and the results of homework assessments may be incorporated into the Year 11 mentoring programme.
- The school organises after school support 2 afternoons each week to assist pupils with homework tasks and promote good study skills

These policy Guidelines are translated into action through other policies and procedures, for example:

Curriculum Policy

Assessment Policy

Special Educational Needs Policy

Teaching and Learning Policies

Behaviour Management Policy