



TOWNSEND

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

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Review period	Annually	Headteacher Signature: Anthony Flack	<i>Anthony flack</i>

This policy was produced in June 2025 after consultation with all stakeholders – Parents, Staff and Students

Document Control

Date modified	Description of modification	Modified by
15/07/2026	• Section 4 – Frequency and Duration of Home Learning Expectations KS3 & 4 was adjusted for Maths and English. • Section 5 – Home Learning Frequency by Subject was adjusted to include English and Maths for Sets 2/3 • Couple of typos amended on page 5	JRI

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1. Introduction

At Townsend, our vision 'Achievement For All, Respect For All' is underpinned by the concept of 'Love your neighbour' from the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:25-37. We value everyone, and show love and respect for ourselves and others, setting high standards and supporting each other so that we can all flourish. The concept of 'love your neighbour' is taught in three strands:

1. Love your neighbour – treat others as you would wish to be treated yourself
2. Love yourself – self-care is important, look after yourself physically, mentally and spiritually
3. Love the journey – whether academic or personal, Townsend supports everyone's journeys to enable you to flourish individually and collectively

At Townsend, we believe that a positive attitude towards home learning can significantly improve student outcomes. It fosters responsibility, independence, self-management, and essential study skills.

2. The importance of homework to support learning

Home learning, or homework, supports students in making meaningful connections between what they learn in school and the wider world.

Research shows that homework in secondary schools can lead to an average improvement of up to **five months** in student progress¹. It is most effective when used as a short, focused intervention – where tasks are targeted and linked to classroom learning. This means home learning is an integral part of regular classroom learning – not an add-on. It reinforces previously taught material, prepares students for future lessons, and helps them feel more informed and confident.

Studies also suggest there is an optimum amount of homework – **between 1 and 2 hours per school day (increasing slightly for KS5)** – with benefits decreasing beyond this range.

Home learning is most impactful when completed in a supportive and structured environment with dedicated time set aside. All home learning will be made available via **EduLink**. Tasks will be reasonable in length and challenge, and each will include a clearly outlined purpose as detailed below. Any necessary resources or equipment will be provided, loaned, or made accessible.

3. Why Students Receive Homework

Homework plays an important role in supporting student progress and achievement. At Townsend, we recognise the following key benefits of setting homework:

- **Improved academic progress:** Research evidence shows that regular and well-planned homework contributes to improved learning outcomes, with students making greater progress over time.
- **Development of effective study habits:** Homework helps students build self-discipline, responsibility, and independent learning skills.
- **Broader range of learning opportunities:** By setting homework, teachers can provide a wider variety of tasks, allowing for deeper understanding and more comprehensive evidence of student progress and achievement.
- **More effective use of lesson time:** When independent tasks are completed outside the classroom, teachers can dedicate more lesson time to collaborative activities, practical work, and meaningful discussions.

¹ For example EEF toolkit states that research evidence shows moderate impact on learning <https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/toolkit-a-z/homework-secondary/>

- **Preparation for future learning:** Homework helps students consolidate what they have learned and prepares them for upcoming lessons, supporting continuity in their education.
- **Enrichment of classroom learning:** Homework can extend learning beyond the classroom, encouraging curiosity, creativity, and deeper exploration of subjects. At Townsend we have a comprehensive **Super Curriculum**, and the homework policy will work in conjunction with this.
- **Partnership with parents and carers:** Homework provides an opportunity for families to engage in and support their child's learning, strengthening the home-school partnership.

4. Frequency and Duration of Home Learning Expectations – Key Stage 3-4

Subject	KS3 Frequency	KS4 Frequency
English	1 per week	2 per week
Maths Set 1	2 per week	2 per week
Maths Sets 2/ 3	1 per week	1 per week
Science	3 per fortnight (between 2 teachers)	1 per week per subject
MFL (Languages)	1 per week (per subject)	
Geography and History	1 per week per subject	
RS	1 per fortnight	1 per fortnight
Art, Design & Technology and Food	1 per fortnight per subject	
Music and Drama	1 per fortnight	
All other GCSE options		1 per week

5. Home Learning Frequency by Subject

KS3 – Duration per Task

Year Group	Duration
Year 7	20 minutes
Year 7 English and Maths Sets 2 / 3	30 minutes
Year 8	25 minutes
Year 8 English and Maths Sets 2 / 3	30 minutes
Year 9	30 minutes
Year 9 English and Maths Sets 2 / 3	40 minutes

KS4 – Duration per Task

Subject Group	Duration
English, Maths, Science & RS	40 minutes
Options	45 minutes

6. KS5 Expectations

Years 12 and 13 The amount of homework set for students in the Sixth Form will vary depending on the number of subjects they are studying. The following timings are given as guidance to both students and teachers. It is recommended that students should complete between **4-6 hours of independent study per fortnight, per subject**. This independent study should consist of homework which is set in class, and work that extends and enriches their A Level classroom learning. Students should use a mixture of study periods and home-learning time to complete appropriate consolidation and curriculum extension tasks.

7. Super Curriculum

The Townsend Super Curriculum will work in conjunction with the Home Learning policy to support students learning beyond the curriculum. Time will be allocated twice a year where homework will not be set, and students will be directed to Super curriculum tasks. As at Townsend we recognise the importance of developing the whole student.

8. Roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher and other staff

The **Headteacher** will ensure home learning is:

- an integral part of the curriculum and is planned to develop pupils' progress
- adapted to suit the needs of all learners
- manageable for children to complete daily

Teachers will set Home Learning and deadlines on Edulink, with instructions, resources, explanations and links when/where required. Sharing of resources will take place via Edulink or Showbie. They will make clear to students the purpose of the work set and how it links to their prior learning.

Students will use the Edulink platform and ensure Home Learning is completed by the deadline in the way expected by their class teacher and to the best of their ability. If they need help or further explanation they will ask before the deadline.

Parents/ Carers will ensure students are provided with an appropriate place to complete Home Learning effectively and/or encourage students to attend Home Learning club if needed.

9. Monitoring and evaluation

Class teachers, middle leaders and senior leaders will all be responsible for the monitoring of home learning by checking students' work, schemes of learning and the use of the Edulink platform. Teachers will reward efforts in home learning and set appropriate sanctions if work is not completed. The Governing body will be able to monitor and evaluate home learning through the school's self-evaluation process.