

Our Ref: KH/ACL/LS/Homework
4th September 2024



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Homework

Dear Parent/Carer,

The Importance and Benefits of Homework for Pupils at Barr Beacon School

I am writing to you to discuss the role of homework in our pupils' academic journey and to outline the expectations regarding homework at Barr Beacon School.

At Barr Beacon School, we believe that homework is a crucial component of the learning process. Research consistently shows that well-designed homework can significantly enhance pupil achievement, foster good study habits, and encourage a positive attitude towards learning. In particular, studies have shown that regular homework can improve retention of knowledge, develop time management skills, and build a sense of responsibility in pupils.

Academic Research Supporting Homework

The benefits of homework are supported by various academic studies. According to research published in the *Review of Educational Research*, homework has a positive effect on pupil achievement, particularly in higher grades where the cognitive demands of tasks are greater (Cooper, Robinson, & Patall, 2006). Furthermore, a study by the *National Foundation for Educational Research* indicates that pupils who engage in regular homework tend to perform better in assessments and are more likely to develop independent learning skills (Sharp, Keys, & Benefield, 2001).

Moreover, homework provides an opportunity for parents to be involved in their child's education, fostering communication between home and school and giving parents insight into what their children are learning.

In summary, homework is an essential part of our educational program at Barr Beacon School. It supports learning in the classroom, helps develop important academic and life skills, and prepares pupils for future academic challenges. We encourage you to support your child in managing their homework effectively and to communicate with teachers if any difficulties arise.



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Homework for Key Stage 3

For pupils in Key Stage 3, we have structured our homework to gradually build their academic skills. Homework is set once a week, with the time allocation increasing as pupils' progress through the years:

- **Year 7:** 20 minutes per subject per week
- **Year 8:** 25 minutes per subject per week
- **Year 9:** 30 minutes per subject per week

Teachers will check the completion of homework regularly, and pupils who successfully complete their homework will receive praise points as recognition of their effort and commitment.

Homework Policy for Key Stage 4 and 5

As pupils advance to Key Stage 4 and 5, the demands of homework increase to better prepare them for their final examinations and further education. Homework is set once a week for each subject, with a time allocation of 45 minutes per piece. Praise points will be awarded for timely and successful completion of homework, while detentions will be issued for incomplete or missing homework.

Homework may take many different forms but will usually be a retention-based activity. These activities are designed to reinforce learning and ensure that key concepts are firmly understood and remembered. To assess the effectiveness of these tasks, homework will be checked during lessons through quizzes and other assessment methods. Pupils who successfully complete their assignments will receive praise points as recognition of their effort and commitment.

Thank you for your continued support of our school's educational programs. Should you need any further clarification, please contact postbox@barrbeaconschool.co.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Hibbs
Headteacher



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