



DOROTHY
STRINGER
SCHOOL

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

Home Learning Policy

Approved by: Full Governing Board

Last reviewed: Summer 2026

Next review: Summer 2029

Dorothy Stringer School – www.dorothy-stringer.co.uk

Our view of the role of home learning is closely linked with our school ethos and values. The completion of regular home learning supports our belief in **Education for Life** and the notion that learning is a continual process which doesn't just take place in school. The school's approach to home learning also fits in with our school values. For example, by providing opportunities for students to demonstrate their creativity beyond the confines of the classroom as well as expecting that students will develop their resilience as they complete work that makes greater demands of them over time as they move through the school.

At Dorothy Stringer we believe that it is important for students to develop their skills of independent work and study. Therefore, we set home learning regularly as part of our approach to expanding students' knowledge and skills. Home learning is designed to support and extend the work students do in their lessons at school. A range of activities may be set for home learning including different forms of research, revision and practice assessment questions.

We hope that parents and carers will often be involved in their child's home learning. Sometimes home learning activities will directly involve parents and carers, for example in finding out about life experiences and different views on key topics. However, most of the time it is helpful for parents to check with their child and ask about home learning. Reading through drafts and finished work together can be helpful in providing support and encouragement with home learning and ensuring that it represents a student's best work.

In order for home learning to be a productive and positive aspect of a student's work it is important that they establish routines to ensure activities are completed to the highest standard. It is helpful for students to have regular times in the week when they complete home learning and for this to be a shared expectation at home. By having a routine students can ensure that homework is spread out over the two-week cycle so that they don't end up having to complete multiple home learning tasks in one evening.

We understand that many of our students will use Generative AI in a range of ways, including in their home learning. It is important that we are clear about our expectations around the use of AI in home learning. AI can be a very useful tool in brainstorming initial ideas in a topic, explaining difficult concepts and proofreading work to check for mistakes. It should not be used to produce complete answers, such as an essay or as a way of avoiding engaging with critical thinking. When considering the use of AI students need to think about the skills that they will be required to demonstrate in any assessment when AI will not be available. Home learning is designed to support and further students' skills as well as prepare them to take assessments and AI should only be

used in a way that supports these aims. (We have a separate AI policy which can be referred to alongside this policy.)

We understand that sometimes things happen that make it difficult to complete home learning on time. It is important that students keep their teachers informed of any issues that may delay the handing in of home learning so that an extended deadline can be agreed. It is important that asking for an extended deadline is something that happens occasionally and doesn't become the norm.

How often will home learning be set?

Key Stage 3	Two-week cycle		
Subject	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9
English	2 X 30 minutes	2 X 30 minutes	2 X 30 minutes
Maths	2 X 30 minutes	2 X 30 minutes	2 X 30 minutes
Science	2 X 30 minutes	2 X 30 minutes	2 X 30 minutes
PSHE	One project during the year		
All other subjects except Drama, PE, computer science and music	1 X 30 minutes	1 X 30 minutes	1 X 30 minutes

Total = 2-3 hours home learning per week

There are extra-curricular activities in school available related to drama, music and PE as well as other areas of school life. We hope that students will get involved in a range of these activities.

Notes:

- New Year 7 students: for the first two weeks in September, home learning will only be set by English, Maths and Science. After this initial period the full homework cycle for all subjects will begin.
- At KS3 no home learning should be set to be completed over the holiday period. Reasonable deadlines should always be given for home learning and no home learning should ever be set for the next day.
- Subjects may set some extended home learning tasks during the year which will be undertaken over a longer set period of time. These tasks will be set on the SLG along with the details of final deadlines and any interim deadlines that students need to meet.

Key stage 4	Two-week cycle	
Subject	Year 10	Year 11
English	2 X 45 minutes	2 X 45 minutes
Maths	2 X 45 minutes	2 X 45 minutes
Science	2 X 45 minutes	2 X 45 minutes
Options subjects	2 X 45 minutes	2 X 45 minutes

Total = 4-5 hours home learning per week

Notes:

- At Key Stage 4 it may be necessary for home learning activities to be set over holiday times, especially nearer to exam season.
- There will be times when GCSE students will be expected to exceed the normal allocation of home learning, for example when NEA deadlines and exams are approaching.