



# Homework Policy

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## Policy for Homework

Silverdale defines homework as educational work or activities that occur outside of the normal school timetable, and that homework is valuable

- in motivating and extending the pupils' ability to work independently.
- to give pupils the opportunity to develop their basic skills where appropriate.
- most importantly in extending and enriching the curriculum.

Many of our students at Silverdale School have not enjoyed a positive educational experience prior to admission resulting in low self-esteem and a feeling that no matter how hard they work they will not make progress. Some of them have experienced long breaks in attendance at any formal educational establishment or very erratic attendance patterns. Their ability to commit themselves to a structured curriculum is often impaired because of their many and varied negative experiences both in and out of school.

However, rather than seeing these issues as reasons for ignoring the potential for setting homework, or not recognising the benefits, it is acknowledged that homework is an integral part of the whole process of providing a meaningful educational experience for all. It is accepted that incorporating homework into the whole learning experience is a desirable aim and subject leaders will foster the development of a culture where homework being issued is acceptable to both students and their parents/carers.

Homework is an additional assessment opportunity and is recognised as such. However, it is important that homework does not become an added burden to students. Sanctions will not be imposed for non-completion of homework but students are able to earn points which are added to the Merits System and therefore enable them to achieve a greater number of merits in a shorter space of time.

Homework is not set to a rigid timetable across subjects but rather, as with all aspects of school life, is set according to individual need. Homework is set

- when it is necessary; to complete class work or coursework for external accreditation
- when it extends or enhances the learning experience
- when it offers opportunities for students to acquire or practice basic skills which enable students to fully access the curriculum
- at the request of students and/or parents.

Consideration is taken of the resource implications of homework in particular the fact that some students are less able to take care of costly or difficult to replace source materials.

Students at Silverdale School have far more opportunities than many of their peers in mainstream schools in respect to the facilities available for the completion of homework. Students are able to access

- Out of School Hours Activities.
- lunchtime and break time sessions.
- one to one booster sessions.

Facilities available for extra-curricular study include

- the ICT room
- the cookery room
- sports hall
- off-site classroom
- art room
- science lab

In addition the teachers and support staff are available to pupils who want some individual tuition outside of normal lesson hours, thus most areas of the curriculum are available to the students.

As in other areas directly related to the well-being, attainment and progress of their child we seek the support of parents/carers in the completion and return to school of work.



**Peter Gannon Headteacher**

Langdale Gardens, Howdon, Wallsend, Tyne & Wear, NE28 0HG

e-mail: [info@silverdaleschoolnt.org.uk](mailto:info@silverdaleschoolnt.org.uk)

[www.silverdaleschool.com](http://www.silverdaleschool.com)

Tel : 0191 605 3230 Fax: 0191 605 3231

**Our Ref:**

**This matter is being dealt with by:**

**Date:**

We are looking to start a Homework Programme in school and hope you will encourage your child to take part in this.

Please return this letter with one of the boxes below ticked

- I don't want my child to receive any homework
- I would like my child to receive homework fortnightly
- I would like my child to receive homework once a week
- I would like my child to receive homework twice a week

We are grateful for your help and look forward to receiving your response to enable us to move forward.

Yours sincerely

**Peter Gannon  
Head Teacher**