



# Hidelow Grange School

## Homework Policy

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<b>Written:</b> September 2022	Sept 2024 - Sam Goodchild
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*CareTech's children's education services provide a safe and stimulating learning environment in which young people are always offered a fresh start, and empowered to achieve and fulfil their unique potential*

## Description and Ethos of Hidelow Grange School

Hidelow Grange is an Independent School operating within the Branäs Isaf Company, a subsidiary of CareTech Community Services Ltd., who are the proprietors.

Hidelow Grange is an independent school providing specialist education to boys aged 11 to 18 years with social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) needs, and who are Looked After Children. The school specifically caters for boys who present with a range of complex interpersonal, emotional and behavioural issues.

**For a more detailed description of what the school offers see "Statement of Independence" and School Prospectus.**

## OUR PUPILS AND STUDENTS

All young people at Hidelow Grange School have a history of harmful behaviours, including harmful sexualised behaviours and social, emotional and mental health needs often accompanied by a range of additional learning needs.

Most of the pupils and students have had interrupted histories in education and care. There are a wide variety of attainments on admission. All have fragile self-esteem and demonstrate difficulties with authority and a lack of trust in adults. Many have experienced loss and trauma, leading to attachment difficulties. As a result, many experience difficulties in forming and maintaining appropriate, positive relationships with others and have a limited ability to work cooperatively.

Pupils and students are:

- aged 11 to 18;
- boys only;
- placed within the residential setting of Branäs Isaf;
- residents from placing authorities throughout the United Kingdom;
- all present a range of harmful behaviours;
- most are in receipt of an EHC plan.

## THE VISION

Our school aspires to become a centre of excellence renowned for making outstanding educational provision for the very special pupils and students we teach.

This vision drives everything we do and will be achieved through...

- A rich, deep and personalised education designed to meet the needs of each pupil;
- A pupil centred, skills focused curriculum that is relevant to the 21st century and inclusive of all;

- Encouraging all members of the school community to strive beyond expectations and develop a lifelong love of learning;
- Offering a broad range of learning experiences within a curriculum that values academic attainment as well as social, moral, spiritual and cultural aspects of education;
- Providing personalised careers education and guidance, with aspirational next steps planning, preparing pupils and students for their future;
- Recognising that time is precious: working quickly to turn around pupils and students' attitudes towards education so they enjoy their time at school and make the most of the opportunities on offer;
- Working collaboratively with our professional partners to support the needs of each individual pupil.

Pupils and students will:

1. Be challenged to engage in learning and achieve meaningful qualifications that will enable them to take their next steps in education, employment or training;
2. Develop into healthy, resilient and confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society;
3. Create, nurture and maintain healthy positive relationships with others;
4. Experience success, whatever form it takes;
5. Become enterprising, creative contributors ready to play a full part in life and work;
6. Celebrate diversity and develop into ethical, informed young people who are ready to be citizens of the world.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission statement is:

We provide a safe and inclusive learning environment that nurtures mutual respect and encourages reflection so that our pupils and students develop the knowledge skills and confidence to enable them to achieve their potential in all aspects of their lives.

## OUR VALUES AND INTENT

**Our values**

- **Aspiration** : We encourage each other to be the best we can be
- **Curiosity**: We never stop learning and wondering about the world
- **Independence**: We think for ourselves and determine our own future
- **Innovation**: We look for new and creative solutions to problems
- **Reflection**: We learn from our experiences
- **Tolerance**: We value difference and respect other people's opinions
- **Trust**: We believe in the honesty and reliability of others

**Our Curriculum Intent**

For our staff: Everyone at Hidelow supports and challenges pupils and students to invest in education as a priority for a successful placement

**For all learners:**

- To undergo an initial 6-week assessment so we fully understand their needs for effective learning;
- To achieve at least 95% attendance in school;
- To engage in creative learning experiences appropriate to their needs, supported by an accurate individual learning plan;
- To achieve nationally recognised academic awards in core subjects;
- To achieve accreditation in a wide range of subject areas;
- To become independent learners;
- To learn how to keep themselves safe, and build positive relationships with those around them;
- To take part in decisions that shape their lives, the school and the community in which they live;
- To demonstrate the behaviours needed to stretch themselves and cope with the challenges of learning;
- To attend and participate in regular therapy sessions;
- To learn strategies to manage their feelings and know where to go for help when things are difficult;
- To have the opportunity to participate in work experience and work related learning opportunities;
- To develop the Literacy skills they need for adult life;
- To learn the skills to apply mathematical concepts;
- To learn the skills to use digital technologies creatively and safely in preparation for the world in which they will live;
- To lead healthy, active lifestyles;
- To develop as social, moral, spiritual and culturally aware individuals who are ready to make a positive contribution to society as adults.



# Hidelow Grange School

## Guide to Homework

2024-2025

# Contents:

- Homework Expectations
- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
- Homework Do's and Don'ts for Care Staff

## Subject Specific Guidelines:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- History
- Other Subjects
- Food Technology/Home Cooking
- Summary of Subject Specific Guidelines
- Failure to Complete Homework

## Annexes:

- ANNEX A: Independent study (Homework) planner

## Who's Responsible?

### Charlotte James

- Maths
- Food Technology

### Victoria Cooper

- English

### Mr Maddock

- Science

### Juliet Smith

- History
- Project

# Homework Expectations

We hope this 'Guide to Homework' can:

- Answer some of your questions
- Help you to effectively support your young person
- Give you an insight of our expectations regarding homework for each subject

Please ensure you check the boys' homework diary and homework planner **every night** to see if they have homework. Please then discuss with your young person what homework he is going to complete that evening.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

### FAQ 1: How long do the boys need to spend on their homework?

- Each pupil to take responsibility for their homework. However, if they are not prioritising their homework effectively, care staff have the authority to set specific times for the boys to complete homework.

### FAQ 2: Do I need to sit with the boys when they are doing their homework?

- You **do not need** to sit with the boys when they are completing their homework. **Unless** a young person is using an internet enabled device such as a school laptop. If your young person is using an internet enabled device, you will need to supervise and observe their screen at all times to monitor what they are doing. You do need to check whether they have at least **attempted each question**.

### FAQ 3: Do I need to check their homework?

- We are not expecting you to mark homework. However, you need to make sure that your young person has at least **attempted every question**. Please refer to the homework expectations for each pupil on the homework

planner that have been provided to each pupil and each house in the form of a homework planner (annex A).

#### **FAQ 4: What should I do if I cannot help answer a question?**

- If you help a young person with their homework, please write beside the answer **'Supported'**. This allows teachers to see where the boys have needed support. However, if you are unable to answer the question, please encourage the boys to seek help from the teacher during break or lunch time or afterschool during homework club (*Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday*).

#### **FAQ5: What equipment do the boys need to complete their homework?**

- The boys need to sit at a desk/table when completing their homework. They should have their own pen and pencil. They should also have their own scientific calculators to complete mathematics homework accurately (when permitted). They should also have their own ruler. The teacher should provide all other equipment (e.g. protractors). If your young person has not got what they need to complete their homework accurately, encourage them to speak to the subject teacher. Pupils will also be provided with laptops if necessary.



# Homework Do's and Don'ts for Care Staff

Do	Don't
Check your young person's homework diary and homework planner with them to see what needs to be completed that evening/ week	Give your young person the answers or methods to complete the set task
Encourage your young person to seek advice from their teacher if they are struggling	Hover over your young person when they are completing their homework
Offer your young person support if they need it: e.g. reading the question to them, helping them think about how to answer it, help them focus	Tell your young person which homework they should be completing that evening: it is their responsibility to organise as they have a week to complete all homework
Set up a suitable area for your young person to work i.e. table, chair, no distractions	
Check that your young person has completed the task and all questions have been attempted	
Ensure your young person has access to any equipment they may need e.g. pen, pencil, ruler, dictionary etc.	
Ensure that your young person hands in their homework on time by packing their bag the night before and going through their homework diary and homework planner with them	

## Note to care staff:

There is **no excuse** for not completing the homework due to misunderstanding. For all subjects, the boys are given several days to complete a piece of work and therefore are provided with many opportunities to ask for guidance and support. They can seek help of the subject teacher at

- Break time
- Lunch time
- After school
- Homework club (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday)

Care staff should also **check** to make sure that all work is complete or at least attempted. Make sure that all boys have read the question properly and have made their best attempt to answer the question.

Care staff can also support their young person with their support arrangements. Some of the boys are entitled to a reader- this means someone can read the question for them.

# Subject Specific Guidelines

## English

It is very important for the pupils to practice their English skills to help them to feel more confident with their reading and writing skills, as well as prepare them for the qualifications they will take. Homework books, worksheets and challenges have been created for this reason.

**English homework will be given out on a Tuesday and students are required to hand in completed homework the following Monday at 8.50 am in morning Tutor time.**

A plan must be completed during homework club on the Tuesday night that it is set. This plan must then be shown to the English teacher on the night it is set to ensure pupils have understood the task and then completed throughout the week.

**Reading for pleasure:** Regular reading is essential for the improvement of writing and general literacy and we would like each student to read every night. This is something which can be done with carers or as a wind down activity just before bed. Please ask the boys about the books that they are reading at the moment. Carers have been given a help sheet to support the pupils at home.

- All pupils are expected to read a book for at least 15 minutes per evening (over an hour per week as an absolute minimum).
- The pupil needs to write a short summary of what they have read and note down the page numbers in their reading diary. Care staff sign the diary to confirm that they have read. Please ask them about what they have read to help their comprehension skills develop. This must come into school every day for the teacher to check.

**Spellings:** These will come home in their English homework books on the dates stated above and should be learnt for a spelling test in their literacy lesson each week. It is advised that students learn two spellings a night whilst recapping the previous spellings also. For example\*\*;

- **Tuesday:** Learn spellings 1 and 2
- **Wednesday:** Learn spellings 3 and 4 **and** recap spellings 1 and 2
- **Thursday:** Learn spellings 5 and 6 **and** recap spellings 1, 2, 3 and 4
- **Friday:** Learn spellings 7 and 8 **and** recap spellings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
- **Saturday:** Learn spellings 9 and 10 **and** recap spellings 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8
- **Sunday:** Recap all spellings and write spellings 1-5 in a sentence
- **Monday:** Recap all spellings and write spellings 6-10 in a sentence

\*\*above is just an example, please encourage your young person to learn a minimum of 2 spellings per night.

As well as learning their spellings, pupils will be expected to **write each spelling into a full sentence**. This is to encourage pupils to actively use their spellings in the context of a sentence.

**S.P.A.G Homework Worksheet/GCSE Revision:** The pupils have a worksheet where they will practice their literacy skills. Each week they should complete **one task**. Each task should take about 15-20 minutes to do properly. Please encourage them to take their time to answer the questions / tasks carefully.

If the pupil is in Year 10 or 11, **may** also receive an additional task each week to consolidate what they have been learning in school or for them to practice a GCSE English exam question. This should take them at least an hour.

*Homework worksheets will be stuck into their English homework books or pupils will be asked to complete a section of a workbook. They need to be brought into school **as per the dates stated above**.*

Library visits are once per half term for both KS3 and KS4. The pupils will need to remember to bring library books that they want to return - and their library cards.

**Note to care staff:** If your young person is struggling with their homework, please encourage them to seek advice and help from the subject teacher.

# Mathematics

It is very important for the pupils to practice their Math's skills to help them to feel more confident with their arithmetic, as well as prepare them for the qualifications they will take. Homework tasks and worksheets have been created for this reason.

Mathematics homework will be set every **Tuesday** and is due in every **Tuesday**. Maths homework will include the following:

Maths homework will be given once a week and will include **14 tasks (two tasks per night)**:

- **My Maths:** Pupils will receive 14 tasks a week via their online MyMaths Portal.
- My Maths Tasks allow pupils to consolidate classroom learning at home.
- Pupils can choose which 2 tasks to complete each night.

## My Maths Expectation:

The boys are to complete **two tasks per night**. They usually take no more than 25-45 minutes depending on the complexity of the task.

## General Maths Homework: *Revision for Year 11*

As the exam season approaches, all year 11 boys will be set an exam paper or a supporting worksheet to help them prepare for their exams.

The expectation for this is:

- Every question is to be attempted/completed
- All workings out must be shown
- Spend between 30 mins – 1.5 hours on this homework (*this will be decided by the teacher*)

**Note to care staff:** If your young person is struggling with their homework, please encourage them to seek advice and help from the subject teacher.

# Science

It is very important for the pupils to practice their Science skills to help them to feel more confident as well as prepare them for the qualifications they will take. Homework worksheets have been created for this reason.

Science homework will be given out when revising for ELC tests or GCSE exams and must be completed during homework club on the night that it is set. Science homework will include the following:

## **Worksheets Expectation:**

The boys are to complete ***one worksheet per week or revise from their homemade revision cards/relevant section of the Revision Book.***

They usually take no more than 15-30 minutes depending on the complexity of the worksheet or number of cards to revise.

## **The expectations for Science are as followed:**

- Each question/worksheet must be attempted/completed
- It must be completed independently
- It should take ***15-30*** minutes to complete

**Note to care staff:** If your young person is struggling with their homework, please encourage them to seek advice and help from the subject teacher.

# History & Geography

It is very important for the pupils to practice their English skills to help them to feel more confident with their subject knowledge and understanding, as well as prepare them for the qualifications they will take. Homework books and worksheets have been created for this reason.

Homework will be given out once a week and must be started during a homework club. This allows students to check for understanding and seek teacher support if necessary. Homework will include the following:

**The expectations for History/Geography are as followed:**

- Each question/worksheet must be attempted/completed
- It must be completed independently
- It should take **20-30 minutes** to complete

**General Homework: Revision for Year 11**

As the exam season approaches, all year 11 boys **may** be set an exam paper **or** a supporting worksheet to help them prepare for their exams.

The expectation for this is:

- Every question is to be attempted/completed
- It must be completed independently
- Spend between **30 mins – 1.5 hours** on this homework (*this will be decided by the teacher*)

**Note to care staff:** If your young person is struggling with their homework, please encourage them to seek advice and help from the subject teacher.

## Other subjects (*Project, ICT, DT, Life Skills, PE*)

Other homework may be set at regular times throughout the learning process. This will be determined and specified by the subject teacher.

**Homework Expectation:**

- Each question/worksheet must be attempted/completed
- Length of time spent on task will be determined by the subject teacher

# Food Technology

## KS3/4

During their Food Technology lesson, the boys will select a recipe of their choice.

Expectation of all boys is to complete the following:

**Prior** to their cooking day, the boys need to:

- Buy ingredients that have **not** been crossed out
- Ensure receipt is kept safe
- Prepare bag of ingredients, apron and recipe the **night before**

**On** their cooking day, the boys need to:

- Bring in ingredients
- Bring in recipe
- Bring in apron
- Hand receipt to Miss James or Mr Goodchild
- Put ingredients in the Food Technology room when they arrive at school

## **Note for Care Staff:**

Please check the boy's homework diary each week for the recipe. It will be stapled in.

This is the expectation for KS3/KS4 in the **Spring Term**. These sessions will be determined by Miss James.

# Summary of Subject Specific Guidelines

Please find all subject specific expectations within the yellow boxes

## English Homework

Reading for pleasure:

Every pupil is expected to read a book for at least 15 minutes per evening. This is to be recorded in their reading journals. These reading journals should come to school every day to be checked by their tutor.

S.P.A.G Homework Worksheet:

Every pupil are to spend a *minimum of 15-20 minutes per task*. Homework task will be set every Tuesday and due every Monday.

Spellings

You will find these within their English homework books every Tuesday. Pupils are expected to learn and practice their spellings in a style which best suits them.

Every pupil should *practise their spellings every night*. It is advised pupils learn 2 spellings a night whilst recapping the previous spellings learnt on the previous nights.

As well as learning spellings, pupils will be expected to write each spelling in a full sentence. 10 sentences should be written each week using the spellings for that week.

## Mathematics Homework:

My Maths Online Homework:

**My Maths** – Complete *two tasks per night*. These sheets will be set and due every Tuesday.

**General Mathematics Homework:** These will be given occasionally in addition to the My Maths Tasks.

**General Mathematics Homework: Expectation for all boys**

- Every question is to be attempted/completed
- All workings out must be shown
- Spend between 30 – 1.5 hours on the homework (*this will be determined by the teacher*)



## Science Homework:

Science homework will be **set and due every Tuesday**

### The expectations for Science are:

- Each question/worksheet must be attempted/completed
- It must be completed independently
- It should take **at least 30 minutes** to complete (*however this may vary in length*)

## Geography/History Homework:

### The expectations for Geography/History are:

- Each question/worksheet must be attempted/completed
- It must be completed independently
- It should take **at least 30 minutes** to complete (*however this may vary in length*)

## Food Technology

This expectation will be for one session only which will be determined and specified by Miss James. The boys will be cooking a recipe of their choice

### Prior to their cooking day, the boys need to:

- Buy ingredients that have **not** been crossed out
- Ensure receipt is kept safe
- Prepare bag of ingredients, apron and recipe the **night before**

### On their cooking day, the boys need to:

- Bring in ingredients
- Bring in recipe
- Bring in apron
- Hand receipt to Miss James or Mr Goodchild
- Put ingredients in the Food Technology room when they arrive at school

# Failure to Complete Homework

## Failure to complete homework is not acceptable at Hidelow Grange School.

There is **no excuse** for not completing the homework due to misunderstanding. For all subjects, the boys are given several days to complete a piece of work and therefore are provided with many opportunities to ask for guidance and support. They can seek help of the subject teacher at

- Break time
- Lunch time
- After school

During this time, the subject teacher will help guide the young person with their homework.

### Failure to complete homework consequences:

If homework is not complete the following consequences will occur:

1. The pupil will be asked to stay behind or come back with their care staff to meet with the subject teacher
2. The pupil will be asked why their homework has not been attempted/completed
3. The pupil will also be asked whether they attempted to gain support from the subject teacher

The teacher will decide what to do with this information; the consequences **may** be as follows:

1. The pupil may be told come back at the next available time (break, lunch or afterschool) to complete the homework they failed to do.
2. The pupil may be given an extension until 4:30 to complete the homework – at this point it must be complete and be handed in to the subject teacher

If the homework is **still** outstanding, further consequences may occur. These are to be determined through discussion between the subject teacher and Head teacher.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Teaching Staff	Qualifications
<b>Sam Goodchild</b> Headteacher; DSL; LAC; Teacher: PE	BSc (Hons) in Sports Studies; PGCE: Secondary Education
<b>Charlotte James</b> DDSL; SENCO; Exams Officer; Teacher: Maths, ICT, Art	BA (Hons) in Primary Education specialising in SEND
<b>Mark Maddock</b> 0.6 FTE Teacher: Science, DT	B.SC. (Hons): Applied Zoology (with Agriculture); PGCE in Biology and Science (Distinction in Teaching Practice) Post-Graduate Certificate of SEN
<b>Victoria Cooper</b> Teacher: English; Enrichment	BA (Hons) English Literature and minor Religious Studies; Dip (HE) Diploma in Community, Youth and Play Work; PGCE Secondary English
<b>Juliet Smith</b> Teacher: PSHE; Humanities; Art; Enrichment	BA (Hons) in Humanities with History; PGCE Secondary Geography



All pupils will be expected to attend homework club between **15:15 and 16:00 in the Training Room** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This will be a relaxed environment where pupils will be **allowed to drink cold drinks and have snacks**. If pupils get stuck, they can ask for help from each other and their support staff or from teachers during homework club.

Pupils will need to consider when they are going to complete their homework. They usually have one week to complete their homework. Therefore, they have plenty of time to make an attempt and if they get stuck ask their teacher for support. They should not leave it until the night before and then say they were stuck.

Pupils will be able to continue to work in the Science Room until 16:30 if they choose to do so.

Pupils will still be expected to complete homework on Saturdays and Sundays following the existing Homework timetable. There may also be additional homework set that will need to be completed at home. For example, revision.

### ***Exceptions***

**Therapy** – Therapy takes priority over Homework club. However, when clashes occur pupils will be expected to attend homework club straight after therapy until 16:30. Any homework that is not completed in this time must be completed at home.

**Appointments E.g. Medical** – Every effort should be made to book / arrange appointments outside of school or homework time. However, if this is not possible, these will take priority over homework club.

### ***Consequences***

Any homework that is not completed on time or completed to a poor standard will need to be completed during **break and lunchtimes**.

