

THE WESTGATE SCHOOL

Hampshire's First 4-16 'All Through' School

*"The Westgate School is a community of learners where partnerships inspire success for all:
learning together – achieving excellence"*

Headteacher: Mrs F A Dean, MA (Ed)

Initial Policy date	September 2006	Next scheduled review	March 2026
Governor approved	March 2025	Key person/people	DHTS
Model Policy		Model localised	Yes
Pupil leadership team review	Yes		

HOME LEARNING (Prep) – LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Principles:

The Westgate School recognises that Home Learning or Prep is an essential and integral part of the school curriculum and is beneficial in the education of all pupils. It offers the opportunity for pupils to learn in a different context and use different resources from those in school. Home Learning and Prep are also an opportunity for parents and carers to support their child with learning.

Home Learning is most successful when parents and teachers work in partnership to support young people in their learning. Encouraging good habits for Home Learning will not only lead to academic success in school, but foster the discipline necessary for effective working life.

Home Learning is seen as key to supporting learning over time by providing an opportunity to:

- a) undertake learning in preparation for work in school in the form of 'Prep'.
- b) gain knowledge and information required for next Steps in Learning in the lesson;
- c) consolidate long-term knowledge through the use of retrieval activities;
- c) apply and practise subject specific skills in different contexts;
- d) enrich, enhance and widen experiences;
- e) complete work begun in class;
- f) carry out research and reading beyond the classroom;
- g) enable pupils to take responsibility for their own learning;
- h) develop pupils' independent learning skills;
- i) develop resourceful and resilient learners;
- j) encourage enquiry;
- k) develop areas of interest and curiosity.

Practice and Procedures:

- Home Learning and Prep should be planned and should be set as part of the ongoing curriculum and not simply as a bolt on addition.
- Pupils should be given opportunities to learn knowledge or skills before the lesson. This is referred to as 'prep' at the School.
- There is a planned Home Learning Model for Lower School pupils that reflects the age and developmental stage of pupils. There is a planned and published subject 'Home Learning Model' for Years 7 – 11. Home Learning will sometimes include activities

which consolidate or extend learning after a lesson, as well as promote and develop effective study skills.

- The time allocated for Home Learning will be graduated to increase as the pupils progress through the school with reasonable deadlines – this is detailed in the Home Learning Models shared with pupils and parents. Teachers will try to avoid setting Home Learning to be handed in the next day, as far as possible.
- Feedback will be given on a regular basis and Home Learning will be assessed as part of a pupil's overall 'holistic' progress.
- Parents will at all times be encouraged to support their children but not to complete the tasks for them. Specific support is available to parents of Year R and KS1 pupils to enable them to effectively support pupils' Home Learning and, in particular, the development of reading skills. In the Upper School, Parents are asked to communicate directly with subject teachers if their child is experiencing difficulties completing Home Learning.
- Edulink will be used to record all Home Learning and Prep tasks set and deadlines for completion. This will provide pupils with an aid to organising their Home Learning and give parents the opportunity to become involved in the Home Learning process.
- The Handbook for Learning provides the first line of communication between home and school with regard to Home Learning.
- Extended projects may be set in Years 7 and 8, in accordance with the Home Learning Model, with teachers regularly checking the progress pupils are making during the completion stage. Where project work is set over an extended period of time, key milestones will be recorded on Edulink.
- Teaching colleagues will make every effort to make Home Learning tasks accessible to all pupils in terms of availability of materials, the feasibility of carrying out research and the allocation of an appropriate timescale. When setting research activities, teachers will suggest effective sources and routes using both the internet and other means, for example, the library, and will model how to research effectively.
- For Upper School pupils, failure to engage with Home Learning will result in an HL code being recorded on Edulink, which parents and carers can view. Should this continue to be a problem, parents will be notified and school sanctions will be followed.
- Pupils will only in exceptional circumstances be set Home Learning during school holiday periods, except in the Lower School, where optional 'suggested activities' may be shared with parents, when appropriate.
- During exam periods pupils will only be set key revision tasks.
- Home Learning, particularly in Years 7 and 8, will include participation in extra-curricular clubs and events.

Footnote:

The Home Learning model for each class/year will be published on the School website and/or in Handbooks for Learning. Pupils may also choose to record details of their Home Learning in their Pupil handbook.