

POLICY: HOME PRACTICE

PERSON RESPONSIBLE: I Brierly

MONITORING: HOFs & HOYs

REVIEWED: June 2018

REVIEW DATE: June 2019

Adopted by the Governing Board July 2018

PREAMBLE : At Paget we believe that in order to meet aspirations students need to understand the value of hard work. Work set for completion at home should be designed to consolidate skills, knowledge and understanding developed at school. We believe that the most purposeful tasks are those where **practise makes permanent**. Tasks that promote mastery and ‘stickiness’ of learning will be of more benefit as they will promote better sustained progress.

Practice is associated with the notion of reaching excellence or mastery and has positive connotations which align with our motto of ‘Be Proud, Aim High, Work Hard’. Homework is traditionally associated with work that just needs to be done and at times its purpose is questionable.

Practice always has a purpose with a clear outcome : **TO GET BETTER!**

PRINCIPLES

At Paget we believe that home practice is important in:

- reinforcing positive attitudes to school work
- encouraging and developing self-organisation and self-regulation
- developing a growth mindset
- developing the home/school partnership
- preparing students for life opportunities and experiences
- developing enthusiasm for learning beyond the classroom
- consolidating deep learning that allows students to exceed targets

In order to enact these principles we will:

- Use the wording ‘home practice’ instead of homework and promote practice as a key driver for success.
- set regular practice tasks in order to consolidate skill, understanding or knowledge.
- give students access to packages and tasks that allow them to practise **AT WILL** out of class and not necessarily be tied just to set tasks.
- Create a positive praise culture that emphasises the positives of the impact of good home practice and avoids a punitive model
- operate a support based model where if a student is not practising enough we will follow up a lack of application with supportive student or home dialogue, goal setting and relevant support scaffolds;

This model will operate across Key Stage 3. In Key Stages 4 and 5, these principles will be applied by curriculum areas to devise a home practice system which suits the learning in their subject(s).

A POSITIVE PRAISE CULTURE

A punitive system should be avoided and a praise for practice system will be adopted that encourages the notion that practice brings its own reward and a skill for life.

A punitive system promotes the notion that 'not doing' results in punishment. Arguably this sets an expectation. However it does not necessarily develop good independent working habits as in many instances it is done to avoid the punishment not to deepen the skill set. It would also be true to note that 'repeat offender' syndrome sets in with particular students.

A SUPPORT BASED APPROACH

Curriculum delivery is designed to support students in attaining their target grades the addition of home practice would allow students to exceed their target grades.

At Paget we will promote home practise as It is important that young people are internally motivated. Amongst the strategies to achieve this we will:

- use the language of 'practise' relentlessly - exemplars, assemblies etc.
- Share good examples of home practise with students.
- Set time or outcome expectations for packages such as SAM learning or Hegarty Maths.
- Develop a culture of 'above and beyond'.
- Look at average times spent on such packages and relate students practice time to the year or student averages.
- Follow up lack of application with supportive student or home dialogue, goal setting and relevant support scaffolds.
- Give students an element of choice for aspects of home practice
- Utilise competition, praise cards and home practice challenges to reward and motivate.
- Tie in good home practice with our attitude to learning score.

ACCESS ISSUES

Where restricted access to home practice tools such as key equipment or technology is apparent due to hardship Paget High will endeavour to work with carers to address these difficulties. Access to school equipment before or after school or during break or lunch is always an option.

We will also endeavour to ensure that any online packages we utilise will be available on all computer platforms and types of mobile device.

REVIEW

This policy is to be used during 2018-19, and will be reviewed next in June 2019.