



The Skinners' School Homework Policy

Policy Area: Curriculum/ Teaching/ Learning

Reviewed:

Adopted: March 2015

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Governing Committee: Education Committee

LG Responsibility: Roger Bee

The Skinners' School Homework Policy

Author: RB March 2015. Reviewed 2016, 2017,2018

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Section 1: The value of homework

1. Does homework improve student performance?

There has been much academic research into the value of homework with contradictory findings. Hattie suggests that homework has a positive impact of just 0.29 in his Synthesis of over 800 Meta-analyses relating to Achievement (Visible Learning 2009).

However, there is a strong correlation between homework and student performance for advantaged, middle class students (see Appendix 1). The suggestion is that it is not hours of homework but the quality and the discipline of completing homework that supports student achievement. Some top achieving countries, like Singapore, assign their students lots of homework. But Finland, for example, succeeds without much homework. On average, Finnish students do only about three hours of homework a week, yet in 2012 they scored sixth highest in the world in reading and 12th highest in maths on the OECD's international test, known as PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment).

Homework has the most positive impact on student learning when:

- It is done by the student to the best of their ability.
 - Students have a quiet, designated place at home to complete homework.
 - Students develop a routine for completing homework at home.
 - Parents are supportive and encouraging.
 - Teachers plan for homework as an integral part of the student learning. Setting long, tedious homework does not improve student learning.
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2. How homework supports the learning and development of Skinners' students

- Supports classroom practice enabling students to extend learning.
 - Enables students to practise skills learned in the classroom and so deeply embeds knowledge.
 - Promotes personal and independent research and learning.
 - Allows for differentiation where the more able extend their learning.
 - Encourages key behavioural skills such as self-reliance, time management and personal organisation.
 - Encourages the development of research and presentation skills.
 - Allows for the testing of knowledge and the practising of techniques pertinent to criteria for assessment in examinations.
 - Promotes enjoyment of learning for its own sake.
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Section 2: Setting and marking of homework

- Homework timetables will be issued to students in Key Stage 3 and 4. *Homework timetables for Year 7-11 are published at the start of the school year and are on homer* **S:Homework timetables**
 - Sixth form students are expected to have developed sufficient independent study and self-organisation skills to be able to manage their workload.
 - Homework must be planned for as an integral part of student learning. High quality, coordinated, interesting and well planned homework will support student achievement.
 - Homework must be purposeful, realistic, meaningful and appropriately challenging for all students.
 - Clear deadlines for completion must be provided by the teacher at the time the homework is set. Teachers must check that students write their homework into their planners.
 - Teacher in Key Stage 3 and 4 must adhere to the published homework timetables.
 - Homework will be marked, assessed and feedback will be provided to the students in line with the School's Teaching, Learning and Assessment policy.
 - During Key Stage 3, Independent Study will also make up part of the student's homework allocation. During this time the student should engage with personal learning to enhance, support and extend his own learning. Tasks for Independent Study will also be set and monitored by subject teachers.
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Homework timetables 2018-19

Homeworks shown below are per week. Homework in Year 9 is under review this year.

	KS3 Year 7 and 8	KS4 - New
Art	1	
French	1	2
German	1	
Maths	2	3
English	1	2
Science	1	
Geography	1	
History	1	
RS/RE	*	1
STEAM	*	
Music	*	
Drama	*	
Classics	*	
Biology Year 9	1	2
Chemistry Year 9	1	2
Physics Year 9	1	2
GCSE Options		2 (x3)

Key Stage 3

- Independent Study, to encourage students to review their work and improve or extend their learning themselves, will also be set from time to time by all departments. This could involve reviewing notes, reading, or even watching a relevant television programme. Independent Study may also be used by subjects which require more regular but shorter homeworks (for example Maths and Languages).
- Homework for KS3 should take the average student between 30 and 45 minutes to complete.

Key Stage 4

Homework in KS4 will support student progress through their GCSE. Some homeworks may be longer (double) and so students will have longer to complete them.

Section 3: Procedure when there is a concern over engagement or homework completion.

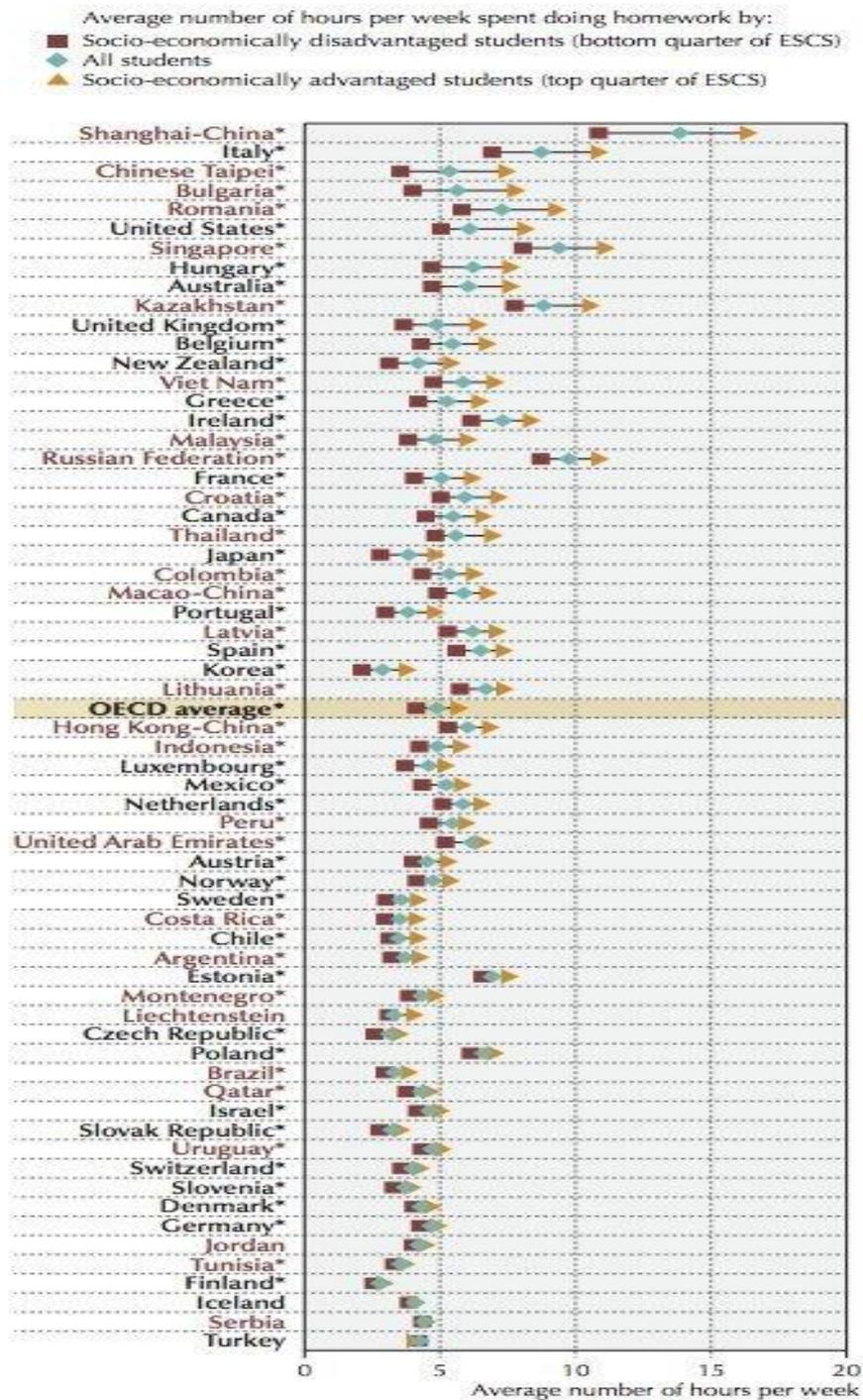
- If a student fails to complete homework, this will be dealt with by the subject teacher using the School's Policy on sanctions.
 - If a parent is concerned over any aspect of homework he/she is encouraged to contact the school immediately either through the pupil planner or through email.
 - Homework, as well as classwork will be monitored by Heads of Department and other school leaders as part of our on-going work scrutiny and quality assurance measures.
 - Homework and its impact will be considered regularly by the School Council.
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Section 4: Tips for parents

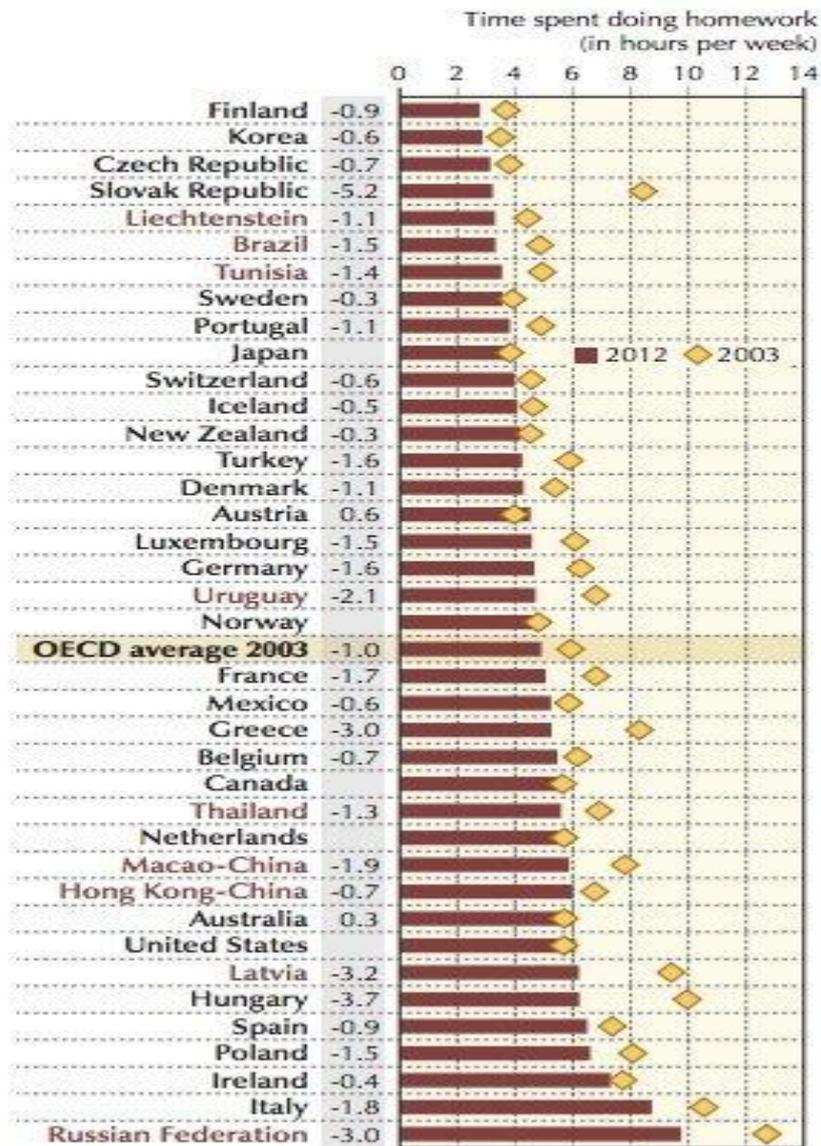
- Keep a designated homework area at home.
- Help keep a routine for your son when he comes to do homework.
- Praise and encourage your son to help boost his confidence.
- Refrain from completing your son's homework for him.
- Ask your son about his homework and sign his planner.
- Use the library.
- Encourage your son, especially in Year 7, to note down in his planner the time it takes him to complete each homework.
- Use the after-school homework club (Monday – Thursday, 3.35 – 5.00pm in the School Library).
- Don't get stressed out by homework - if you are, your son will be too. If there is an issue please contact us.

Appendix 1. Comparison of homework hours set by OECD countries and its impact

Advantaged students spend more time doing homework



The amount of time students spend doing homework is substantial, but less than it was in 2003



Top 10 longest homework hours

1. Shanghai
2. Russia
3. Singapore
4. Kazakhstan
5. Italy
6. Ireland
7. Romania
8. Estonia
9. Lithuania
10. Poland

Source: OECD

How much time do 15-year-olds spend on homework?

