

The school recognises that homework is a valuable element of the school curriculum and can be an important means to raise a pupil's self-esteem, as well as supporting work done in the classroom. That being said, it is not good to overload pupils with a very rigid and strict policy of homework, as this can be counterproductive. At Valence School, one arrangement for homework would not suit all young people and their learning development.

In broad terms, there are two main approaches to homework at Valence School, but more individualised programs and bespoke arrangements can be made in consultation with the teacher in order to appropriately meet the needs of the learner. Each class or subject teacher will be responsible for monitoring his or her pupils' homework. Approaches to homework reflect the pathway being followed

Early Years and Keller Pathway approach to homework:

Class teachers let parents know what their children are learning by sending a termly newsletter that includes a section about how to reinforce learning at home within specific topic areas. Teachers may also communicate individually with parents about book suggestions to encourage joint reading experiences and the opportunities to enjoy reading at home.

Simmonds approach to homework:

The School recognises that homework may take many forms and may include reading, written work, observations, research and practice of other skills as appropriate. We consider that reading regularly is an essential part of building literacy skills.

In other subjects, homework may be set at the discretion of the teacher or upon request from the child or parents, as long as the level and frequency of the work does not place an unrealistic burden on the pupil. Please contact teachers to discuss individual homework arrangements with them

Hawking Pathway approach to homework:

Homework is work that is set to be done outside the timetabled curriculum. It contains an element of independent study in that it is not usually directly supervised by a teacher.

As with the other pathways, homework will continue to take many forms and will include reading, written work, observations, research and practice of other skills as appropriate. In the Hawking Pathway, there will be an expectation that students read outside of class time as an essential part of building literacy skills.

Valence School does not have a fixed homework timetable with time allocated for different subjects on different evenings. Students will need to learn to manage their time so that they complete homework or reading each evening. Each department will set meaningful homework when appropriate for that subject to support the learning taking place.

In order to assist students with their homework, parents and home living area staff should seek to provide an appropriate place for work to be completed, and make it clear to the student that they value homework. Students should always be encouraged to attempt work and be praised for completion within deadlines.