



Rochdale Islamic Academy
inspire - believe - achieve

GIRLS' SCHOOL

MARKING POLICY & HOMEWORK

Reviewed: July 2023

Next Review: July 2024

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Marking Policy & Homework

Aim

To establish a consistent approach to the way the learner's work is marked, so that students feel valued and have a clear understanding of how well they are doing. To ensure all students have their work marked regularly to help them reach or exceed their full academic potential. Marking will help students to improve their work and will inform teacher planning and monitoring.

Objectives

To achieve this aim, there must be a uniform approach across the school.

Pupil should all be aware of:

- Their level for the section of work.
- Their successes with the section of work.
- How pupils can further improve their work

Principles

Marking and feedback at RIAG will be consistent with the following principles being followed:

- Focused on student learning
- Based on shared learning objectives
- Periodically and selectively given
- Positive in tone and accessible by all students
- Supportive of achievement in all its forms
- Helping students to improve their work
- Promoting learner confidence
- Including opportunities to develop peer and self-assessment skills
- Informing future planning and thereby support individual 'target setting'

Rationale

At RIAG we recognise that teachers' marking of students' progress and attainment and students' assessment of their own progress and attainment are central functions in the learning process. The focus of written feedback is on helping students gain a clear understanding of how well they have gained knowledge, concepts, and skills.

Marking is most effective when the student knows:

- The purpose of the task
- How far they have achieved this
- How to move closer towards their goal of learning.

Marking and implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all teachers.

How Should We Mark Pupil's Work?

Positively

We all learn better when our efforts are recognised and praised. With increasing knowledge of what counts as good learning for individual pupils, their prior attainment (data tracking will help us with this). The most effective feedback demonstrates the teacher's knowledge of the pupil

How The Books Should Be Marked

Strengths + Targets + Next Steps

At the end of each section of work that is marked, teachers need to give:

- Strengths of the piece of work.
- Next steps – strategies for progress
- References to targets

Spelling, Punctuation & Grammar

Throughout the section of work that is marked, the following notation should be used in the margins to highlight Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar. Focus on general spelling and punctuation in the FIRST TWO paragraphs and then point out any errors of subject-specific key words. The teacher will decide if it is appropriate to make corrections beyond this.

Rewards for good work and for the following:

- If pupil meet or exceed their target level.
- If a pupil gets the top effort grade for homework.
- If a pupil produces a piece of work that is exceptional for their ability

Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time - DIRT

DIRT stands for 'Dedicated Improvement and Reflection Time '.

- DIRT is about having the highest expectations of students and them having the highest expectations of themselves.
- DIRT enables feedback to be focused, can be modelled and scaffolded, targeted, precise and exploit the power of peers. This will allow pupils to make the most of their feedback, learn from their experiences and bridge any gaps they have in terms of their knowledge.
- DIRT time will be planned to take place within the learning environment of each subject.

Frequency Of Book Marking

Not all marking can or should be marked in detail. Within each unit of work departments will identify a finite number of key pieces of work for more in depth, quality marking.

However:

- A **minimum of one piece every half term** will be identified by foundation subjects over the course of a year, though core subjects would probably need to identify additional opportunities for quality marking to take place.
- These pieces of work will focus on the assessment of progress in relation to specific learning objectives or if required curricular target/s.
- **Success criteria will be shared with pupils** and at the end of the marking process it should be clear to the pupils "what they have done well" and "what they need to do to improve."
- Comments will be positive and subject specific. Linking words such as BUT are best avoided. "Even better if..." (**EBI**) may be a more helpful way of focusing teacher and pupil feedback.

Pupil should be given appropriate opportunities to self or peer-assess.

Involving Pupils in Self and Peer Assessment

Peer and self-assessment are much more than students simply marking their own and other's work. To improve learning, it must be an activity that engages students with the quality of their work and in reflecting on how to improve it. Peer assessment, when done effectively, provides students with

valuable feedback enabling them to learn from and support each other. It adds a valuable dimension to learning: the opportunity to talk, discuss, explain and challenge enables pupils to achieve more than they can unaided. Furthermore, both peer and self-assessment promote independent learning, helping students to take responsibility for their own progress.

Effective Peer and Self-Assessment:

- Takes time, planning and commitment. At the beginning students will require the process to be modelled for them.
- Takes place when students clearly understand the Success Criteria for the piece of work – making standards explicit is key to unlocking understanding.
- Students need to be taught structures of language they can use. Prompt sheets are useful as a starting point.
- Ensure that enough time is planned into the lesson to allow for discussion and subsequent action.
- All peer assessment work must be labelled as such

Providing Feedback Which Moves Learners Forward-Pupil Self- Reflection

We recognise the importance of constructive, informative, and subject specific oral and written feedback and how much this is valued by students. Feedback should allow students to respond to targets through planned opportunities. There should be an opportunity for pupils to respond to the feedback and the targets that the teacher has set. It should allow them to engage in a dialogue about their work rather than allow them to make comparisons with other pupils

Feedback that moves students forward will:

- Use only comments for the majority of feedback
- Be closely connected to learning objectives and success criteria
- Will be based upon the learning rather than the effort.
- Confirms that pupils are on the right track and supports students' next steps.

Homework

Responsibility for the setting of enough and appropriate homework and for ensuing sanctions and rewards lies within the departments. The department will ensure a consistent approach within its team of teachers and must be clearly labelled as HW in books. Classwork must be labelled as CW.

Frequency of Homework

Subject	Frequency of Homework
Key Stage 3	
English, Maths & Science	Once a week
All other subjects	Once a fortnight
GCSE Subjects	Once a week

Roles & Responsibilities

Teacher

- Mark work regularly.
- Award pupil a level for the piece of work in their books or folders where appropriate.
- Advise pupil on how to improve the level for the section of work in their books or folders where allowed.
- Ensure that pupils have the target level clearly on display on or near the front inside cover of their exercise book.
- To share good practice with marking in meetings.
- Recognise and reward effort and progress

ALL SUBJECT TEACHERS TO CHECK STUDENT BOOKS MONTHLY.

Presentation Of Work

Pupil should be encouraged to present work neatly; dates should be written in the margin. All titles and dates must be underlined. Written work should be completed in blue/black pen and diagrams should be completed in pencil. Pupil should be encouraged to write the LO of each lesson at the beginning of their work.

Teaching Assistants

- To read the comments written by teachers in order to guide any pupil with SEND in the class.
- To use the notation consistently and in accordance with the whole school approach referred to above.

Student

- Read comments written by teachers.
- Respond positively to comments written by teachers.
- When advised, self-assess work using criteria.
- Peer assesses work fairly and responsibly, giving strengths and next steps.
- Put the best effort into book work.
- Catch up on work after absence.
- Keep standards of presentation of work high.
- Do not graffiti on the cover of the exercise book or folder.
- Responsibility to ensure that work from lost or missing books is copied up.

Parent

- To read the comments written by teachers regularly
- To support the school in checking that pupil are organising their book work.
- To check that pupil is packing the correct books and equipment for each day of the week.
- To support the school in providing a bag that can accommodate books comfortably.
- Check and use the planner each week.

Leadership Team

- SLT to check on the marking of books twice a year.
- To monitor the implementation of the new policy in its first year to see how effective it is.
- To research ways of speeding up the marking system without losing its formative nature.

Set Targets

Set between two to three targets which must be used by pupil to improve their work during the interim marking period. Targets must be achievable, clearly indicating how improvement can be achieved in the timescale given.

Recording

Teachers should keep detailed records of assignments undertaken by pupil and their levels of performance and areas for development, extension, and revisiting. These records should be monitored by heads of department as part of their routine monitoring of teaching and learning.

Tracking Pupil Progress

Departments will retain centrally the levels/grades awarded and for the end of unit assessments. This may initially be kept as paper record but ultimately must feed into our whole school on-line record keeping system. Results should be traffic lighted in order to highlight pupils progressing below/in line/or above expectation. Consideration should then be given to the reasons for these variations. Action should be taken to formally recognise pupil success and share related good classroom practice, as well as to support underachievers and address areas of concern.

Controlled Assessments

Those subjects that include controlled assessment components should work to the principles out lined below.

- Initial drafts of controlled assessments delivery should be subject to explicit deadlines
- Failure of pupil to deliver controlled assessments on specified deadlines should be followed up immediately by the individual teacher
- Work should be assessed as it comes in and given back to pupil with guidelines for improvement within an agreed timescale (negotiated by head of departments, ensuring that pupil have time to respond to advice from teachers in time to improve before the final deadline). Final delivery deadline should be agreed between Heads of Departments and tutor to ensure meeting of deadlines wherever possible.
- All staff should keep a record of the date-controlled assessments are submitted by pupil and pupil must be asked to sign at the time of submission.

Target Level

All exercise books should have the target level clearly written on the front inside cover.

Monitoring, Evaluation & Review

- Heads of Departments and SLT to complete a book-marking review twice a year.
- SLT to informally look at books on learning walks.
- HT to monitor the impact of this policy on staff with very heavy marking loads.
- Student, parental and teacher surveys
- Student Council to discuss how the new approach has improved their learning.

EBI Example of Targets: targets must be specific and something students are able to respond to independently – they can be statements or questions – if questions, they can be differentiated.

Maths

- Show your calculation for this sum.
- Write the definition of a prime number.
- Explain the difference between cubed and squared.
- Write the formulas for area and volume and explain the difference between them.
- Find an alternative way of getting the same answer

English

- Use a wider range of connectives.
- Write a variety of sentence types including those with a semi colon within them.
- Rewrite two of these sentences using commas.
- Find a quotation that supports this idea.
- Explain why you think the writer did this.

Science

- Produce a small flow chart to outline the process of...
- Comment on how accurate this result may have been.
- Add further detail to what could happen if...
- Evaluate the success of this stage of the practical.
- Draw the...
- Answer the question what would happen if...

Languages

- Write the different verb forms of the word...
- Correct the spellings of...
- Use the circled words in a sentence of your own.
- Translate the following.
- Rewrite the sentence paying attention to word order.

History

- Why do you think this happened?
- Was there an alternative?
- Can you think of a case study to show this?
- What do you think had the biggest impact?
- What would have happened if...?
- Taking all the evidence, what do you think most important event was?

- Draw a diagram to represent...
- Use connectives to rewrite your summary of...
- Consider how you can use a subordinate clause to add extra detail to this sentence.

Practical Subjects

- Use when writing has occurred i.e., students may be asked to write an evaluation / method of a task.
- Consider using for Literacy / Numeracy targets where appropriate.
- Use for coursework drafts.
- Based on a practical session (performance) student may receive Verbal Feedback - they can write this in and the following lesson they can refer to this when starting the task and, in the plenary, write an explanation of how they responded