

Helping your child with homework: top tips to support literacy

1. **Find it** Make it a habit to check your child's planner together and ask them to talk through what they have written as you will often find there are extra ideas which may have not been written.
2. **Talk it through:** ask your child to tell you what they have to do in their own words. This will help them recap the learning experience. Oral rehearsal really supports writing.
3. **The right book, the right pen, the right place and time:** these practical details matter and can make a big difference!
4. **Watch the clock:** don't hesitate to annotate homework with the time taken and your signature.
5. **Getting started:** this can be difficult for many students. Often the first sentence is not the best. Encourage your child to have a first go in rough and then draft into the relevant piece.
6. **Handwriting reminders:** if handwriting is an issue, one target beforehand will save tears afterwards eg keep your letters touching the line.
7. **Read it to me:** if your child likes to use IT to produce homework, it is essential they print and *then* proof-read. Reading aloud any extended written work helps them spot missing detail and errors.
8. **The asterisk and the perfectionist:** it doesn't matter if something is wrong. It does not have to be entirely rewritten! Encourage them to use an asterisk to present an improved sentence or extra detail.
9. **Deadlines! deadlines!** What really matters is that they do it. Always talk through how to find a teacher before the next lesson if they are struggling with the task. Be aware there is homework support in the Core. Any subject teacher can help.
10. **Be a teacher.** Ask your child these key questions a) what do you think your teacher will like (double tick) and what do you think they will ask you to improve in Over to You Time?