**68 strategies to get homework in**

Tried and tested methods that work

**Educate**

1. Explain to students how homework can help them to improve their attainment: see Homework to Extend Learning [@lovelearningideas.com](http://www.lovelearningideas.com/learners)
2. Explain to students how you intend to use homework as part of the learning process so they can see that it is an integral part of your teaching and not merely an add-on for the sake of it: see Homework to Extend Learning [@lovelearningideas.com](http://www.lovelearningideas.com/learners)
3. Make sure that this is the case!

**Climate**

1. Send a clear message to students that homework matters. If students know that the worst thing that they can do in your lesson is not to produce high quality homework, they are more likely to do it
2. Make your feelings very clear. Nag students about homework. Praise students who produce it
3. Find funny and competitive ways to ‘big up’ the handing in of homework so that handing homework in is fun and worthwhile. Link it to Learning Treats in your lesson: see Be Better at Behaviour [@lovelearningideas.com](http://www.lovelearningideas.com/behaviour)
4. Have a trumpet fanfare that you can play on your computer when students give in their homework
5. Reward the whole class if all students produce their homework (this one is controversial!)
6. Get into a homework completion competition with another class or teacher
7. Display high quality homework
8. Have a Homework Wall Display. Allow students who produce their homework to put their names on post its on the display

**Strategy**

1. Do what works. If your strategy for getting homework in is not working, don’t use it
2. As a class, create ‘Rules for Learning’. Decide together on rewards and sanctions for not doing homework
3. Ask your students what will help them to give homework in. Negotiate
4. When setting deadlines agree these with students to give them more ownership of the process. Perhaps start negotiations with a less generous deadline and be prepared to extend it. This way students will feel that they have got a good deal from you
5. Have two deadlines. To prevent this looking like a ‘climb down’ be clear that you have a homework ‘window:’ your first deadline and your final deadline. This allows you to ‘pick off’ students who may miss the first but will get to the second
6. Be flexible about how students can get homework to you if they miss your first deadline. Have a box in your classroom, let them email it to you; let them bring it to you in registration etc. Generally ensure that they have plenty of opportunities between the first and final deadline
7. Set homework at the start of the lesson
8. If setting a large project have lots of mini-deadlines and chunk the homework so students aren’t left with too much to do

**Visibility**

1. Make the handing in of homework more visible
2. Make the handing in of homework more ceremonious or formal
3. As you call the register, students have to bring up their homework
4. Have a SHOW TO GO and STAY TO SAY [why you haven’t got your homework] policy where students give you their homework as they leave. This will works well before breaks, lunchtimes and the end of the day
5. Have a signing in sheet at the start of the lesson. Students have to sign in that they have done their homework
6. Make parents aware of homework
7. Use department display to emphasise the importance of homework
8. Have your electronic mark book on the whiteboard so students can see their homework completion
9. Show students their homework completion in your mark book individually
10. Print off students’ homework completion record from your mark book and stick their bit into their book or progress planner, so that they can visually see their record of homework completion.

**Rewards and Sanctions -** *It will work best if you use this ‘carrot and stick’ approach together!*

1. Set clear, meaningful and immediate rewards for students who hand in high quality homework
2. Set clear, meaningful and immediate sanctions for students who don’t give homework in
3. Students who produce homework can sit in friendship groups
4. Students who fail to produce homework sit by themselves until they bring in their homework
5. Students who produce homework go into a raffle to work at the teacher’s desk (this might not work in all schools but if appropriate students can relish the opportunity to sit in the teacher’s chair at their desk.)
6. Set a homework detention for the day that the homework is due in. This can then be cancelled for any student who has their homework. Students will write in their progress planner the lesson before ‘detention on 4th May 3.0-4.0 if I don’t have my homework’. The teacher then signs this as the students leave. Time homework to be given in during lessons before breaks, lunchtimes and the end of the day so that you can use immediate sanctions
7. Have a missing homework escalation
8. Contact parents
9. Charge interest. For example, for a 1000 word essay it now needs to be 1250 words. This works well at A Level
10. Give lollipops for the best homework. This apparently works well even with A Level students!
11. Split the class into teams, the teams that all hand in their homework, receive some sort of reward
12. Have ‘treat’ activities that can be done by students who have handed in their homework – but make sure that you don’t reward students with easy work
13. Give out stickers for handing in homework. Have a prize for the student each half -term with the most stickers
14. Give out a raffle ticket for homework handed in. Have a prize draw at the end of the lesson
15. Send home postcards or certificates for students who have a perfect homework record for the half term
16. Use the school reward system to reward students for doing homework
17. Make sure that the students who do their homework are the ones who get the most attention from you. Don’t reward students for failing to live up to your expectations

**Model**

1. Make sure that you always do your homework for the class!
2. Show that you value homework by marking it promptly and thoroughly
3. Have feed forward/ DIRT sessions about the homework so that students can see that this is a valuable part of their progress

**Value**

1. Link homework to assessment
2. Don’t give the next piece of work until the first piece is done – this works well with exam paper homework
3. Involve students in the setting of homework. If they feel more involved they are more likely to do it
4. Involve an element of choice or personalisation into homework so that it feels more relevant, for example setting a mix of practice, extension and connection homeworks that best fit the needs of the learner
5. Make homework important to the learning
6. Set a variety of different homework
7. Where you are trying to create a habit, set enjoyable homework which gets students into the habit first

**Support**

1. Have a department Homework Clinic night. Take it in turns to be available to help students with their homework
2. Allow students to sit in your classrooms before or after school if they want to do homework
3. Ensure that all students have written instructions in their planners that they can read and will be able to follow – not just ‘do homework’
4. Ensure that all students have the understanding and resources that they require to do the homework
5. Offer support to students BEFORE the deadline to help those students who need it

**Technology**

1. Get students to log their homework in their phone, as well as their progress planner, and use their alarm to remind them about their homework
2. Get students to use Evernote to organise themselves
3. Get students to work within Google Docs so that you can check their progress
4. As above but with Make Waves VLE
5. Send reminders to students using a class group email
6. Use Edmodo to get work and reminders to your students
7. Use Parent Mail to remind parents of big department deadlines