

Homework Policy

Homework is integral to the majority of courses at Kirkwall Grammar School. Its most important purposes are:

- To help pupils to take responsibility for their own learning.
- To foster the idea that learning does not only take place in school.
- To give parents some insight into the work their children are doing at school.
- To provide a vehicle for parents to support their children in their learning.

From the teacher's perspective it provides opportunities for:

- Consolidation
- Reinforcement
- Extension
- Revision

Every department will have its own homework policy in the departmental handbook based on these guidelines.

- Every effort should be made to be consistent in the length of time expected to be spent on homework and the frequency with which it is set. In most instances it should be possible to allow more than one night for completion so that pupils can plan their own homework timetable.
- The recommendations in terms of time you can expect pupils to spend on homework for each subject per week are:

S1 and S2 40 minutes

S3 and S4 1 hour

S5 and S6 2 hours

This can be set as one long assignment or several shorter ones. However, it should never exceed this amount in any one subject in a single week. If a longer time is required, it may be possible for departments to come to an arrangement whereby time is swapped between subjects for several weeks.

- By building in homework tasks at the course planning stage, it is possible to provide constructive, integrated tasks rather than an 'optional extra'.

- Where possible, set differentiated homework appropriate to the needs of individual pupils. It can be de-motivating for a pupil with learning difficulties to spend significantly longer on his or her homework than other pupils.
- It is helpful if homework tasks are written on the board and well before the end of the lesson to allow time for them to be copied into the Homework Planner. It may be necessary for you or an Assistant to write the homework in the Planner for some pupils. In S1 and S2 a regular check that tasks have been copied down correctly should reinforce the importance of the Planner.
- Homework tasks can take a variety of forms, for example, preparation for a class discussion, revision for a quick test at the start of a lesson, research. A written task is not always necessary or appropriate.
- Prompt feedback or follow-up will assist in ensuring the task is completed and that pupils feel their work is valued

At the start of each session, an explanation of the departmental homework policy will assist pupils in knowing what is expected of them. Pupils should know:

- On which days homework will be set and when it will be handed in.
- How it is to be presented.
- The consequences of failure to complete the set tasks.

Pastoral Care teachers will assist pupils in preparing their own homework timetable at the start of each session.

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