

Homework - A Guide for Parents

Homework is integral to the majority of courses at Kirkwall Grammar School. The most important purposes of homework 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

How you can help

- help your children establish a homework 'routine'
- provide the right conditions for homework to be effectively tackled
- ask what homework your children have
- check and sign their homework planner
- check that homework has been completed
- encourage children to plan ahead
- let us know when there are persistent difficulties with the work set
- give support and advice when in difficulty

How much help should you give?

It is often difficult as a parent to draw the line between offering assistance and actually doing part of the task for the youngster. The types of difficulties children meet will vary considerably but as a general rule the emphasis should be on support and encouragement. Some ways in which you might do this are:

- to check that the task has been understood
- suggest areas where mistakes might have been made
- ask leading questions which might help understanding

If, despite help, your children are unable to cope with homework assignments, it is vital that you let us know. Should you wish to discuss any other aspects of homework, please do not hesitate to contact either the Pastoral Care teacher or myself.

