



Kinlochleven High School
Homework Policy
August 2016

1. Rationale

At Kinlochleven High School we believe that homework is a valuable addition to the learning experienced by pupils in school. It has a number of different purposes:

- ✓ To develop independent learning skills, self-organisation and self-discipline
- ✓ To prepare youngsters for the demands of independent study and coursework
- ✓ To consolidate on what has been learnt in lessons
- ✓ Reinforcing, broadening and extending the school curriculum
- ✓ Developing the home/school partnership

Principles underlying homework policy and practice

- ✓ Homework should be carefully planned and be an integral part of course work.
- ✓ Homework tasks ought to stem from class tasks and ought to be relevant to current learning.
- ✓ Homework should be differentiated to meet the needs of individual pupils
- ✓ Pupils should be adequately prepared for the completion of tasks set
- ✓ Homework should be issued to all year groups, in all subjects and to all pupils
- ✓ Homework should be issued in appropriate quantities and completion dates should be both clear and reasonable

What kinds of task can I expect my child to be set?

- ✓ Researching (extended projects set over a longer period of time or resource gathering in preparation for future lessons)
- ✓ Learning (e.g. vocabulary, spellings, facts)
- ✓ Extension tasks that deepen learning
- ✓ Writing assignments/drafting
- ✓ Reading
- ✓ Practising, consolidating, building (e.g. presentations/newly acquired skills/examination questions)
- ✓ A task which uses technology e.g. photos to record the activity completed. The image is the evidence of the work done.

The Role of Staff

The Senior Management Team will provide support for the development of homework programmes in departments and faculties. The SMT will also take responsibility for informing parents of the whole school policy through the use of the school website, the development of an information booklet and at Parents evenings. Senior Management will also develop a whole school Praise and Reward system as a part of our school improvement plan 2016-17

The Principal Teacher of each Faculty will ensure that the whole school policy is embedded firmly in departmental and faculty provision and that homework is regularly monitored and reviewed. The Principal Teacher of each Faculty will also monitor continual incompleteness of homework and will speak to the pupils concerned. This may be followed up with a 'phone call or a teacher2Parent text message.

Class Teachers will issue, monitor and assess regularly, homework undertaken by pupils. It is important that a realistic timescale for completion of homework is set and that pupils are made aware of how homework is to be assessed or acknowledged. Class teachers will use the school's new Praise and Reward system (as identified as an area of development for 2016-17) for the consistent return of homework.

The Role of Parents/Guardians

Parents/Guardians should appreciate that homework is an important activity and that they have a key role to play in ensuring that homework will be completed to the best of their child's ability.

Parents are encouraged to provide practical support for homework by:

- ✓ Establishing a routine whereby homework is given a recognized place in home life,
- ✓ Discussing homework with the young person regularly,
- ✓ Providing an appropriate place where study can be undertaken.

The role of pupils

Pupils will:

- ✓ Recognise the value of homework and be made aware of its capacity to improve learning.
- ✓ Record the homework set, including details of the task and the date it is due in. This can be done using technology such as mobile 'phones or written in jotters.
- ✓ Be encouraged to use strategies to ensure that their workload is as evenly spread as possible
- ✓ Meet the expectation of staff that homework will be completed and returned on time
- ✓ Make use of the support available to them

Supported Study

Study support is available every night after school in Room 102, which has a full suite of computers, should your child need ICT support. Staff are also always available to help.

Lunchtime HW club also available three days a week in Room 101 (currently Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays).

Good Practice : Homework checklist (For Staff)

Routine

- ✓ Homework is recorded by the pupil. Mobile 'phones can be used to do this.
- ✓ Homework is recorded in the teachers record of work
- ✓ Homework is corrected and commented upon, where applicable
- ✓ Return and non-return of homework is recorded by class teacher
- ✓ Pupils are rewarded/praised for consistent high standard of homework
- ✓ Pupils are rewarded/praised for consistent return of homework
- ✓ Pupils are rewarded/praised for consistent high level of effort shown in homework
- ✓ Class teachers need to be aware of workload for pupils from *all* subjects

Methodology

- ✓ Homework is a planned element of the classroom teaching
- ✓ Homework takes into account the different styles of learning of individual pupils
- ✓ Homework takes into account the ability range of pupils
- ✓ Homework takes into account the variation in resources available to pupils
- ✓ Homework tasks are varied
- ✓ Homework tasks are challenging
- ✓ Homework tasks are interesting
- ✓ Homework tasks have clear success criteria

Monitoring and Tracking

- ✓ Pupils awarded a merit for completed homeworks on SEEMis
- ✓ A Whole School praise and ward system will be developed (SIP 2016-17)
- ✓ Class teacher and PT faculty to liaise and discuss how to best to respond to continual non-submission of homework. This may result in a conversation with youngster, a teacher2parent text message or a 'phone call home

Art & Design

Broad General Education

In S1 learners are set a variety of fun homework approximately two per term although this varies. In S2 learners are given a homework sheet which is attached into their sketchbooks. This homework link to their units of work for example Portraiture and Surrealism. There is a homework prize of some materials and a certificate for S1 and S2. Learners are expected to be creative and spend at least one hour on their homework.

In S3 pupils complete homework links and contributes directly to their units; for example developing an idea or researching an artist or designer. They should spend a minimum of two hours at this level.

National 4/5

Pupils have a portfolio to complete for submission to SQA as well as a written exam for National 5. Learners have a lot of independence and responsibility as they choose a theme that is relevant and specific to them personally. Learners have the opportunity to purchase a set of materials and a sketchbook that helps them with the quality of their homework and to be organised. The homework is included as part of their portfolio work and it is therefore crucial in achieving a good grade in Art. Homework is set more frequently, at least five per term.

Higher

Learners at higher level do a large amount of homework at least two hours per week. Their portfolio is 80% of their final grade and extra work is imperative to achieve a high grade at this level. The homework depends on learner's particular individual themes and stages of their Expressive and Design projects. Learners have complete autonomy and responsibility for ensuring that they are progressing and using the study time available to them.

Advanced Higher

Learners at this level work with the teacher as a mentor and guide. They have full responsibility to ensure that appropriate homework is completed. Learners produce a personal study about artists or designers. They have a minimum of two hours per week to complete in order to pass the course at this level and to ensure effective progression.

Supported Study

Supported Study is available to all senior pupils every Thursday in the Art room. Learners that regularly attend see a real difference in their progress and attainment and I would urge them to attend.

Biology

S3 BGE

Pupils will mainly be asked to research a topic in preparation for classwork or to produce a piece of work as a result of such research. Sometimes the tasks will be extensions to classwork or practising skills that we have covered in class. This is designed so that pupils understanding of key concepts may be explored in order to deepen their understanding and tackle any misunderstandings.

National 4/5

Most homework exercises will be extension tasks that deepen learning. There may also be some exercises of a numerical problem solving nature, or research in preparation for classwork. Relevant skills are taught in class and then practicing at home can further improve such skill. The workload at this level will be more intense than previously. Later in the year, these tasks may be focussed towards revision and assessment tasks.

Higher

At this stage pupils have a lot of responsibility and autonomy in their work. Sometimes there will be set tasks such as practice essays or research as preparation for class tasks but on the whole, homework is expected to be reading around the topics covered in class and continuous revisiting of concepts which pupils require to consolidate their knowledge and understanding of. The workload at this level will be more intense than previously. Later in the year, set tasks may be focussed towards revision and assessment tasks.

Business

S1/2

Business is taught for one period a week to all S1 and S2 pupils. Class work is project based and for this reason this reason homework usually involves research tasks or resource gathering in preparation for future lessons.

Sometimes there may be extension tasks that deepen learning in the lesson.

S3

Students who choose Business in S3 can expect 3-4 pieces of homework each term. A homework booklet and homework jotter will be issued to all pupils. Homework will be related to the topics covered in class.

Senior Phase

In addition to revising classwork and undertaking personal study for assessments, homework is issued on at least a fortnightly basis. This usually takes the form of past paper style questions which will be related to the topic being studied in class.

Pupils are expected to keep up to date with news and current affairs as this will enhance their learning. News stories and articles of interest are shared on Twitter @KHS_BusEd

It is expected that any missed classwork is caught up with in pupils' own time.

Chemistry

S3 BGE

Pupils will mainly get open ended questions, sometimes of a research type. This is designed so that pupils understanding of key concepts may be explored in order to deepen their understanding and tackle any misunderstandings.

National 4/5

Most homework exercises will be extension tasks that deepen learning. There may also be some exercises of a numerical problem solving nature. Relevant skills are taught in class. Practicing at home can further improve such skill.

Higher

At this stage pupils have a lot of responsibility and autonomy. Pupils agree amongst themselves what to do for homework. The teacher acts as a facilitator, checking homework completion, providing assistance where necessary.

Some homeworks and articles of interest will be shared on Twitter @chemistry_khs

It is expected that any missed classwork is caught up with in pupils' own time.

Computing

Pupils in BGE Computing will receive little set homework in S1 and S2 though with the increased use of cloud based software pupils are free to explore ideas further at home using the same software we use in class. This can frequently be done using a mobile phone or tablet as well as via a PC.

In S3 as pupils prepare to enter the senior phase we increase the amount of time spent in Computing as well as the depth of study. Pupils will receive some set homework, mainly research to support in class activities.

In S4 to S6 all levels of the course are supported by online resources and pupils will be directed to use these in preparation for in class assessment work on a regular basis.

Pupils at all levels are encouraged to explore the software environments we use for themselves, at home, to increase familiarity and competence in these. A conscious effort is made to use freely available software to encourage this further work.

English

Ms du Preez

S1- S3

Reading Program (fiction or non-fiction, books of own choice) with related activities - progress will be assessed every term; learners will have a small jotter for this purpose.

Senior Phase

In addition to study and revision, pupils will be issued with homework as the need arises. This will increase as the course progresses towards assessments and exams. Pupils are expected to catch up on class work if absent.

Geography

S1-3

Homework will be issued 3 times each term and pupils will have at least one week to complete agreed learning tasks. Deadlines vary depending on pupil timetable, but pupils can refer to the homework timetable on the class board.

Senior Phase

In addition to study and revision, pupils will be issued with homework at least every fortnight. This will increase as the course progresses towards assessments and exams. Pupils will also be expected to catch up on learning work missed at home. Study guide books will be issued to pupils.

History

S1/2

History is taught twice a week to all S1 and S2 pupils and they will study three topics each year. For each topic there will be one piece of significant independent homework such as a project or essay. Other homework will be in reaction to class activities such as a research tasks or evidence gathering for future lessons. Sometimes there may be extension tasks that deepen learning in the lesson.

S3

Students who choose History in S3 can expect more regular written homework. Homework will be related to the topics covered in class and will included questions to assess and deepen knowledge plus some research tasks to extend background knowledge.

Senior Phase

In addition to revising classwork and undertaking personal study for assessments, homework is issued on at least a fortnightly basis. This usually takes the form of past paper style questions including essays which will be related to the topic being studied in class. These tasks are timed to develop exam skills

Pupils are expected to keep up to date with any missed classwork in their own time.

Home Economics

S1/2

Home Economics is taught for 2 periods a week to all S1 and S2 pupils. The pupils should expect 2 - 3 pieces of homework each term. This will reinforce the work done in class. It may vary from writing, research or even photographic evidence of preparing food.

S3

Students who choose Home Economics in S3 can expect 3-4 pieces of homework each term. Tasks will be set relating to work being covered in school. These will include research, questions or reading of articles.

Senior Phase

Fashion and Textile Technology has a large practical element to the course. Homework will be 3-4 times a term. All pupils have a research and themes workbook and will be set tasks on related topics eg, Designers, Shoes, fibres, tweed products.

Hospitality has a large practical element to the course and it is expected that pupils should be preparing meals at home to practice skills learnt in class. Pupils can expect 3-4 pieces of homework each term. This will vary to reinforce work done in class and will include recipes to try, articles to read, questions to answer.

Maths

S1-S3

Homework is regularly set and pupils will have a week to complete it. The format of the homework may vary: a worksheet, a research project or activities set on the 'sumdog' website. Room 102 is available on Wednesday lunchtimes for support with homework or to use the computer and there will be after school support sessions run throughout the year.

Senior Phase

Homework is provided to reinforce the material being covered in class. Pupils will get a week to complete the worksheets. Maths Club is available every Monday and Wednesday after school for help and support with homework and revision. Pupils should also aim to look over class notes and practice questions on a regular basis.

Modern Languages

BGE

S1 and S2:

In languages, S1 and S2 homework is most of the time, learning new content and learning very basic grammar. I am going to make vocabulary booklet to help pupils learn and keep the vocabulary. Most of the homework I give to S1 and S2 pupils is: learning the vocabulary we just studied, and eventually practice it by translating short sentences.

They might have to finish some small projects at home, but it will depend on the amount of time during a period, if somebody was absent etc ...

As well, we sometimes do Global Citizenship or Cultural topics and projects that do not necessary require the pupils to work at home (I keep most of the material in my classroom as I do not want them to lose it).

In S3:

As we extend the sentences we produce, S3 sometimes have more homework than just "learning the vocabulary" it might be revisions of a grammar concept or making sentences or translating, to practice writing and reading skills (as speaking and listening would require either to be in class or to have access to a computer and internet).

S3 are probably also going to have a vocabulary and grammar booklet to learn the vocabulary from.

Senior phase

N4/5:

In the N5 final exam, some of the content can be practiced and revised precisely. Around December and January, most of the homework pupils have to do is memorise a presentation for their Talking assessment and also memorise part of a letter of application for the Writing assessment.

Higher:

In the Higher exams, there are not any elements that they can precisely revise. So most of the Homework is memorizing the content we have seen. They receive specific homework (grammar, past papers, practice) depending on their needs. For example, if they got a tense right during the lesson, they would have to do very little at home to revise. If they had some difficulties, I would give them personalised homework on things they had difficulties with.

Advanced Higher:

Most of the work has to be made by the pupil with only some guidance of the teacher (portfolio, presentation...). Most of the homework is to read a book in French (with a help-booklet made by the teacher), work out a plan for the portfolio, writing the portfolio and then, revising for the writing and the talking assessment. Some specific homework can be given, if the pupil is struggling with a particular lexicon or tense.

With senior phase pupils I also use Google Classroom to give them interesting articles or videos to read and watch to practice and also to get familiar with a new type of vocabulary.

Music

S1-2

While pupils with keyboards, guitars etc. at home will be encouraged to take work home if they wish when we're studying these instruments, formal homework at this level will never assume the availability of instruments. What pupils should expect is occasional simple research or music reading/writing work related to in-class listening and music literacy content, with frequency (not often) and timing dependent on where we're at in class.

S3

With S3 pupils now choosing which instruments to concentrate on after the wider range of S1-2 in-class 'starter' blocks, out-of-class practice is increasingly vital in developing skills. So the Music Department is currently (Session 2016-17) working towards the establishment of such practice as expected regular homework on a similar (but lighter) basis as described under S4-6 below. Other research or music reading/writing tasks may still sometimes be set.

S4-6

Senior Phase Music pupils really need to be practising their Performing Skills outside class time, so should treat this as their regular Music homework unless alternative work has specifically been set. This may involve maintaining a simple Home Practice Log and discussing it with the teacher.

Pupils choosing instruments unavailable at home can make use of Music Department facilities at lunchtimes or after school and must be prepared to do so. It may also be possible to borrow some instruments (typically guitar, bass, keyboard or portable piano) over weekends and holidays.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

BGE PE

Pupils are issued with one piece of homework each term.

The task will be open ended and require some research. Pupils will be able to incorporate the use of a variety of technology if they wish to do so to complete the task. Physical Education homework is designed so that pupils understanding of key concepts may be explored in order to deepen their understanding and tackle any misunderstandings.

Pupils will have access to the Physical Education Google classroom which will contain course plans, the homework tasks, and class material and is also a means for pupils to ask questions and return homework electronically if they wish to do so.

Nat 4/5 PE

Pupils have a portfolio to complete for submission to SQA. Homework will comprise of pupils recording and analysing their own performance data and using the information to plan their own training programme. Pupils will then be required to keep a training diary up to date after each practical session. This homework will then be included in the portfolio as evidence and contributes to pupils overall grade.

Pupils will have access to the Physical Education Google classroom containing course plans, homework information, relevant videos on skills and techniques and can be used to ask questions and submit homework material.

Higher PE

Pupils at Higher level sit an external SQA exam. Homework will consist of reading and understanding course material and keeping a training diary.

At this stage pupils have a lot of responsibility and autonomy. The teacher acts as a facilitator, checking homework completion and providing assistance where necessary.

Pupils will have access to the Physical Education Google classroom containing course plans, homework information, relevant videos on skills and techniques and can be used to ask question and submit homework material.

Advanced Higher PE

Pupils have a project to submit to SQA which is worth 70% of their overall grade.

At this stage work is completely individual and pupils have a lot of responsibility and autonomy. The teacher acts as a facilitator, checking homework completion and providing assistance where necessary.

Pupils will have access to the Physical Education Google classroom containing course plans, course information, relevant videos on skills and techniques and can be used to ask questions and submit homework material.

It is expected that any missed classwork is caught up with in pupils' own time

Physics

S3 BGE

Pupils will mainly get open ended questions, sometimes of a research type. This is designed so that pupils understanding of key concepts may be explored in order to deepen their understanding and tackle any misunderstandings.

National 4/5

Most homework exercises will be of a numerical problem solving nature. Relevant skills are taught in class. Practicing at home can further improve such skill.

Higher

At this stage pupils have a lot of responsibility and autonomy. Pupils agree amongst themselves what to do for homework. The teacher acts as a facilitator, checking homework completion, providing assistance where necessary.

RME

RME is taught for one period a week to all S1-S3 pupils. Our work is often topic or project based, extending over 4-6 week periods. For this reason homework's are usually researching tasks for extended projects set over a longer period of time or resource gathering in preparation for future lessons. Sometimes there may be extension tasks that deepen learning in the lesson.

In S3, during the YPI (Youth Philanthropy Project), youngsters may also be asked to practice their presentation for their chosen charity.

Homework tasks set and useful links to help your youngster complete them will be put up on the Kinlochleven High School RME Twitter account @khs_rme

Science (S1/S2)

Pupils may expect a range of activities to do out with the classroom. Such activities will be designed to broaden their knowledge and understanding of science. Exercises will be issued at times that make them correspond in a meaningful way to current class based learning.

Support for Learning

Homework given will depend on the reason a pupil attends the SFL Base:-

1. Spelling: - 10 words to be written twice nightly 5 times per week.
2. Reading - agreed number of pages (approx. 4-6) to be read each week.
3. Multiplication tables: - 1 table (discussed with pupil) written each night 5 times per week.
4. Maths: - occasionally pupils may attend the Base for some / all of their Maths Periods. They will then be given approx. 15 minutes homework per week.

Technologies

The Design & Technology Department believes that effective homework is an important part of the Design & Technology curriculum. Homework tasks set within the department vary. These tasks are used to consolidate, reinforce and/or enhance pupils learning.

The department is open at all lunchtimes and at the end of the school day whereby pupils can use the facilities to complete homework tasks.

All pupils in S1-S6 within Design & Technology will be issued with homework varying in frequency throughout the school year.

As pupils progress through the school they are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning. Therefore homework tasks can take the form of personal choice whereby pupils are aware of a specific area that requires additional work