

Rationale

Homework is an important part of the learning process. Ullapool High School recognises that not all learning is achieved in structured lessons and indeed some learning is better undertaken outside the normal teacher led environment. The amount of self-directed work expected of pupils increases as an individual progresses through the school and practice and training in this is in itself an important life skill. This policy sets out our agreed standards to help all our stakeholders make the best use of homework to help young people.

Purpose

The purpose of homework is to further engage pupils in the learning process. It should reinforce, enrich and deepen knowledge gained in lessons, possibly using resources that are not readily available in the classroom. This may involve parents/carers, who are a vital element in supporting learning, or other school partners. Homework can also help identify strengths and weaknesses that may require additional support and the school will seek to provide that support for all the young people that require it.

Types of Homework

A variety of homework which fits the purpose described above will help pupils, teachers and parent/carers in the following ways:

- Pupils in becoming Successful Learners by
 - Allowing practice and consolidation of work done in class
 - Allowing preparation for future classwork
 - Offering access to resources not available in school such as discussion with other community members
 - Developing skills in using libraries and other learning resources
 - Providing opportunities for individualised work
 - Training for pupils in planning and organising time
 - Developing good habits and self discipline
 - Encouraging ownership and responsibility for learning
 - Using digital technology to increase digital literacy
 - Taking advantage of support sessions when required

- Teachers in the assessment of learning by
 - Allowing assessment of pupils' progress and mastery of work
 - Providing evidence for the evaluation of teaching
 - Providing information for parent/carers

- Parent/Carer Engagement by
 - Providing opportunities for parental co-operation and support
 - Creating channels for home/school dialogue
 - Allowing an informal sharing of the curriculum

HOMEWORK ORGANISATION

Planning When to Do It

All younger pupils are supplied with a student planner where they can record what homework is to be done. It also contains much good advice and helpful information about the school. This information may be helpful to parent/carers as well as pupils. When homework is given it should be recorded in the diary so that everyone can see what has to be done and by when. Time then needs to be set aside to do the homework. Different settings for homework suit different pupils and different types of homework.

How Much Time is needed For Homework?

An indication of different time allocations for each year group is given below. The style of homework changes as a pupil progresses through the school as more independent study is expected.

S1 – S3 Most subjects will offer 3 or 4 pieces of short work per term. Subjects which see pupils more often (for example Maths) may be once per fortnight. Homework should not exceed two hours per week and there may be weeks with no homework.

S4 - S6 For examination classes homework will be around once per fortnight. This should not exceed five hours in any given week.

Note that musical instrument practice, Art folios etc are ongoing pieces of work that require out of class commitment.

What Happens if Homework is Not Done?

- 1) Class teacher should discuss with pupil and provide another opportunity for homework to come in.

- 2) If this is becoming a regular occurrence, class teacher should consult PT who should discuss with Guidance and a homework alert should be sent to parent/carers.

- 3) If no further improvement is made then a meeting should be arranged with child, Guidance, parent/carers and the department to see what support can be offered for the young person.

How Do Parent/Carers Know If Homework Is Not Done?

An alert will be sent to parent/carers following the guidance above.
Tracking and Monitoring reports will also allow parent/carers to see homework information

Supported Study

Many subjects offer supported study after school for pupils in the senior phase (S4-6). Pupils in S1-3 can also attend by negotiation with the relevant teachers.

Space in the library is available at break, lunchtime and after school for study

Study areas are available for senior pupils during normal class time

A working lunch club will be available Monday – Thursday in SfL for pupils to work together with each other as well as staff and senior pupils.

Who Checks If The System Is Working?

- Parent/Carers are asked to help their child and the school by checking periodically that the pupil has attempted the work set to the best of his or her child's ability.
- Pupils are expected to take responsibility for their own homework in terms of the quality and its prompt arrival.
- The class teacher checks when the home work is in and the quality of it.
- The guidance teacher keeps an overview of any homework, discipline or other particular problems.
- The Headteacher makes sure the policy is working

Staff Only

Management of Homework

Staff should record the following:

- Homework tasks set for each class.
- Date homework was issued and the date due in.
- That the task has been completed and the quality of the response.

Staff should follow good practice models:

- Make time to be clear about homework, allow information to go into diaries, ensure good time for completion
- Consider a homework routine (E.g every other Tuesday for Friday, habit goes a long way in building organisation)
- Check and modify homework for pupils with specific ASN
- Consider personal circumstances of pupils
- Mark homework quickly and give feedback to the pupil.

In the case of non-completion of homework subject teachers should take the following action:

- If work is not handed in on the due day then request that it is handed in the next day.
- Alert pupil to the lunchtime sessions in SfL.
- For regular non-completion, consult with PT and Guidance teacher. Contact parent/carer alerting them to problem.

Monitoring Pilot

The school will consider and also try to develop a system that allows staff at a glance to check homework load of pupils. This would see regular repeated homework easily entered in (once only) and also larger pieces(projects/folios) by class teachers to enable the whole school to see any stress points and take appropriate action. An exploration of how this can be shared with parent/carer (if requested) will also be investigated.

STUDY FACILITIES

The library is available during lunchtime and after school for pupils wishing to complete work and to gain access to computer networks. Working lunch sessions are available every lunchtime in SfL.

