

Homework Policy and Practice

Wallace High School

Rationale

This document has been produced to support the development of a coherent, consistent and rigorous approach to homework for the pupils, staff, and parents of Wallace High School.

The key role of homework is to raise attainment at all ages and stages and across all ability levels. The benefits of homework, and the good routines and habits of an effective independent learner, should be instilled at an early age. As pupils progress from the **Broad General Education** to the **Senior Phase**, homework must reflect the breadth and balance of the curriculum, providing wide and varied opportunities to match the needs and abilities of all pupils.

Our Aims:

- To provide a framework to ensure clarity around school expectations
- To support a consistent and manageable approach to homework
- To ensure that homework design is firmly rooted in the principles of CfE
- To make homework meaningful to deepen the learning
- To engage the interest and meet the needs of all pupils
- To involve parents in communication about homework
- To provide online support systems
- To place emphasis on independent learning and personal responsibility
- To foster good study habits and a well-developed ability to manage time effectively
- To provide opportunities to evaluate impact and celebrate success

Expectations:

All pupils are expected to complete homework in every subject area, and at each stage of the curriculum. Homework will be linked, and have relevance, to the planned learning. Homework will provide opportunities for personalisation and choice, and the appropriate level of support and challenge.

Homework will be issued in manageable amounts with shared and appropriate timescales for completion. Pupils will be expected to take responsibility for time-management, completion and submission of homework.

Pupils will be treated with equity and will not be expected to complete homework that relies solely on the use of technology. Pupils who do not have access to technology at home will continue to have access through provision in school.

Pupils will be provided with online support to assist in their planning and organisation. These supports include:

- Edmodo
- Show My Homework
- Assessment Calendar on school website

Feedback from homework will be linked to learning and personal development targets. Feedback will be provided in a variety of ways including:

- Written teacher feedback
- Verbal teacher feedback
- Peer assessment
- Class discussion/analysis
- Formal marks
- Solutions given in class

Pupils are expected to:

- Keep a note of what is required and when it is due
- Plan ahead
- Manage time to complete homework to the best of their ability
- Seek help before the deadline date if required
- Submit homework on or before the due date

Staff are expected to:

- Set homework which is interesting, relevant and at the appropriate level
- Be aware of other pressures and responsibilities pupils may have
- Be clear about expected completion times
- Be realistic about deadlines
- Keep a check on homework done
- Provide meaningful feedback in a range of ways
- Recognise and celebrate positive effort and achievement in the completion of homework tasks
- Ensure that report ratings are a true reflection of a pupil's homework record
- Request a FAC letter to be sent home if homework is not completed or deadlines are not met

Parents are expected to:

- Be familiar with the expectations of the school
- Reinforce the importance of homework as an extension of learning in school
- Show an interest in their child's homework
- Encourage good working habits at home
- Contact school if there are concerns about homework
- Respond appropriately to concerns expressed by school

Types of Homework

Details of subject specific homework are available on the school website. Below is a sample list of the types of homework pupils can be expected to complete as they progress through the curriculum. It is important to understand that even if no formal homework has been issued, there is always an opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of a subject through home learning. Pupils are expected to devote some part of every school day to the completion of homework or in extending their knowledge. As pupils progress, time devoted to homework and independent study will increase in line with the level of challenge in their courses.

Preparatory Homework- providing opportunities for pupils to gain background knowledge on a subject or unit of study. Tasks will include:

- Researching a topic
- Learning vocabulary
- Preparing a presentation or talk
- Gathering research materials or evidence
- Collecting materials for use in class
- Completing a worksheet
- Writing up an experiment

Extension Assignments – providing opportunities for pupils to engage independently and creatively in their learning:

- Private reading
- Working on a project
- Working on an extended piece of writing
- Going over notes taken in class
- Private research to add breadth and depth to topics studied in class

Practice Exercises – providing opportunities for pupils to apply new knowledge:

- Preparing for a test
- Consolidation exercises to reinforce content/skills learned in class
- Past or Practice papers in National/Higher/Advanced Higher courses
- Timed practice in essay writing

Time management:

The following table is meant as a guide only. As a rule, homework tasks will become more demanding, and require longer completion times as pupils progress through school. As stated, even where there is no formal homework set, pupils should aim to spend time on each subject every week.

STAGE	NUMBER OF SUBJECTS	TIME
BROAD GENERAL EDUCATION - FORTNIGHTLY		
S1	13	25 -30 mins
S2	13	25 – 30 mins
S3	13	30 – 40 - mins
SENIOR PHASE - WEEKLY		
S4	Up to 7	1 – 1 ½ hrs
S5	Up to 5	1 ½ - 2 hrs
S6	Up to 5	1 ½ - 2 hrs

Non-completion of Homework:

It is important to stress that our clear expectation is, that in normal circumstances, pupils complete all homework set. We foster an ethos of achievement and challenge, and we expect pupils to set high standards for themselves. Should there be issues with the non-completion of homework, submissions that do not reflect effort/ability, or persistent difficulty in meeting deadlines, Pastoral Support will contact home by means of the Faculty letters.