



# **Cookstown High School**

## **Homework Policy**

**Reviewed: November 2024**

**Next Review: November 2028**

Contents

POLICY OVERVIEW..... 3

RECORD OF POLICY AMENDMENTS ..... 3

Purpose..... 4

Guiding Principles..... 4

    Relevance ..... 4

    Equity..... 4

    Responsibility ..... 4

    Feedback ..... 4

Expectations ..... 4

    Completion ..... 5

    Quality ..... 5

    Independence..... 5

    Communication ..... 5

Procedures ..... 5

    Assignment Format ..... 5

    Frequency..... 5

    Feedback and Grading..... 5

    Extensions and Accommodations ..... 5

Summary of Roles and Responsibilities..... 5

    Role of Teachers ..... 5

    Role of Parents, Guardians and Carers..... 6

    The Role of Pupils ..... 6

Progression of Home Learning from Year 8 to Year 14..... 6

    Years 8-10 (Key Stage 3)..... 6

    Years 11-12 (Key Stage 4)..... 6

    Post 16..... 6

Monitoring and Review ..... 6

## POLICY OVERVIEW

### DETAILS

<b>TITLE</b>	Homework Policy
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE</b>	Governors', Staff, Parents/Carers
<b>REVIEW DATE</b>	November 2024
<b>REVIEW LEAD</b>	Mr L Forbes
<b>POLICY DEVELOPED BY</b>	Senior Leadership Team
<b>POLICY RATIFIED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON:</b>	November 2024
<b>EFFECTIVE FROM:</b>	November 2024
<b>REVIEW FREQUENCY:</b>	Every 4 years
<b>REVIEW DATE:</b>	November 2028
<b>PRINCIPAL</b>	Miss G J Evans
<b>CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS</b>	Mrs L Dripps

## RECORD OF POLICY AMENDMENTS

The following table outlines any significant changes/amendments made to this procedure since it was ratified by the Board of Governors on:

<b>DATE OF REVIEW OR AMENDMENT</b>	<b>SUMMARY OF CHANGED / AMENDMENTS TO PROCEDURE</b>	<b>AMENDED BY</b>

## Purpose

Homework, (or home learning) is an invaluable opportunity for pupils to continue their learning outside the timetabled curriculum of the classroom. When home learning tasks are set and completed effectively, it forms part of our mission to raise standards of achievement and encourage the young people of Cookstown High School to develop a positive attitude to learning that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

Home learning enhances pupils' learning experiences; it provides them with opportunities to reinforce concepts, practice skills and foster a sense of independence and ownership of their education.

The purpose of this homework policy is to outline expectations, guidelines, and procedures to ensure consistency and effectiveness in home learning assignments.

## Guiding Principles

At Cookstown High School we want to encourage pupils to become independent learners, achieve high standards, be creative and acquire personal organisational skills.

The aim of home learning is to give all pupils the opportunity to reinforce their learning by undertaking tasks at home which consolidate new knowledge, skills, and ideas they have first been introduced to at school or to prepare them for learning in later lessons.

We hope to, in turn, strengthen the partnership between home and school by giving parents, guardians and carers the opportunity to support and encourage their child's learning in a practical way.

As such we have four **guiding principles** in relation to home learning tasks:

### Relevance

Homework assignments will be purposefully designed to complement and reinforce classroom instruction, aligning with learning objectives and curriculum standards.

### Equity

Homework assignments will be fair, reasonable, and considerate of students' diverse backgrounds, abilities, and needs. Differentiation strategies will be employed to accommodate individual learning styles and preferences.

### Responsibility

Students, teachers, and parents/guardians share responsibility for the success of homework assignments. Clear communication and collaboration among all stakeholders are essential.

### Feedback

Timely and constructive feedback will be provided on homework assignments to support students' understanding, identify areas for improvement, and encourage academic growth.

## Expectations

Expectations we have as a school surrounding homework are as follows:

## Completion

Students are expected to complete homework assignments thoroughly and on time. Late submissions may be subject to sanctions as outlined in the positive behaviour policy.

## Quality

Homework should reflect students' best effort and demonstrate understanding of the concepts covered. Neatness, organisation, and attention to detail are encouraged.

## Independence

While homework encourages independent study, students are encouraged to seek clarification or assistance from teachers when needed. Collaboration with peers is permissible when permitted by the teacher.

## Communication

Teachers will clearly communicate homework assignments, expectations, and deadlines, providing necessary resources and support materials. Parents/guardians may be informed of homework expectations and encouraged to support their child's learning at home.

## Procedures

### Assignment Format

Homework assignments may include but are not limited to written exercises, reading assignments, research projects, online activities, and problem-solving tasks.

### Frequency

Homework assignments will be assigned regularly, with consideration given to students' workload. The frequency and duration of homework may vary by subject and ability.

### Feedback and Grading

Teachers will provide timely feedback on homework assignments, which may include written comments, mark-scheme references, or verbal feedback during class. Homework may be graded for completion, accuracy, effort, Literacy standards or a combination thereof, as determined by the teacher.

### Extensions and Accommodations

Students requiring extensions or accommodations due to extenuating circumstances (e.g., illness, family emergencies) should communicate with their teacher as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements. A parental note may be required.

## Summary of Roles and Responsibilities

### Role of Teachers

The teaching staff will:

- Plan home learning to ensure it is an integral part of the child's learning experience.
- Set appropriate tasks e.g., practice-based activities, revision, or preparation for future learning.
- Give clearly defined instructions and information needed for the home learning to be completed.
- Value pupils' completed work by reviewing it in accordance with the assessment policy.

- Sanction pupils who do not submit their home learning on the specified day where a valid reason from home is not produced.
- Reward pupils where appropriate for their effort and attainment

### Role of Parents, Guardians and Carers

Parents, guardians, and carers are expected to:

- Provide a suitable environment in which pupils can conduct their home learning.
- Make it clear to pupils that they value home learning and support the school in explaining how it can help their learning.
- Encourage pupils to complete the work.
- Check that their child has completed the work.

### The Role of Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Record and actively monitor the homework set using their homework diary.
- Ask for help if it is not clear to them what they must do.
- Approach their home learning with effort, diligence, and pride.
- Submit their home learning on time and in good presentational order.

## Progression of Home Learning from Year 8 to Year 14

Pupils will be expected to spend an increasing amount of time on home learning as they progress through the school.

### Years 8-10 (Key Stage 3)

- Owing to the nature of the 2-week timetable pupils see some subject areas more frequently than others. Home learning tasks will be set as deemed appropriate by subject teachers. It is suggested that homework tasks would total between 30-60 mins per subject in a weekly/bi-weekly fashion as per the timetable.

### Years 11-12 (Key Stage 4)

- Pupils will be set work for home learning as deemed appropriate by subject teachers, in collaboration with pupils. This is likely to be on average one to two pieces per week per subject and total around 1 hour per subject, per week.

### Post 16

- Pupils are responsible for their own workload and will be expected to apportion their own time to complete tasks to or ahead of deadlines. This aligns with the purpose of study periods in school also. Homework tasks will be set as appropriate by subject teachers; tasks may total between 2-3 hours per subject, per week.

## Monitoring and Review

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Senior Leadership team every two years.