

St Mungo's High School

Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework can help consolidate learning and raise attainment of pupils when it is meaningful and purposeful. It can promote positive attitudes for pupils enabling them to take responsibility for their own learning. It is also an essential part of preparations for internal and external assessment.

For homework to be effective it is necessary to have:

- Good parent – school relationships.
- Positive pupil – school relationships.
- Parental support for pupils at home.

Purpose of homework

Effective homework can be given for a number of reasons:

- To help raise levels of attainment and achievement.
- To help pupils to develop a deeper understanding of coursework.
- To help strengthen the partnership between teachers, pupils and parents/carers.
- To encourage the personal responsibility of pupils for their own work.
- To encourage good work habits and organisational skills.
- To help prepare pupils for the demands of personal study post school.

Types of homework

Different types of homework may be set, each with different but related reasons:

A) Planned Tasks.

This is homework which forms an integral part of the course and will support learning in class. This will reinforce or extend what has been taught in the class eg through research or extended writing.

B) Preparation for class work.

This type of homework involves pupils in preparing for tasks to be completed in class.

C) Revision.

There will be a planned revision for set assessments or formal examinations. Pupils will not get homework for every subject every night although there is an expectation that pupils will undertake revision of classwork at home to consolidate the learning.

Purpose and assessment of tasks

The purpose of homework will determine whether or not it is formally assessed. The outcomes of homework will always be recorded by the teacher and by the pupil. It is not appropriate for all homework to be formally assessed but teachers will explain this during the appropriate class lesson.

Developing positive attitudes

We aim to encourage positive attitudes to homework by:

- Monitoring and regulating the quality and frequency of homework across the school.
- Giving fair time allocations.
- Recognise, value and acknowledge effort.
- Equipping pupils with the appropriate skills and clear instructions for the completion of homework.
- Ensure pupils have an appropriate amount of time to complete their homework.
- Providing feedback on homework.

Where homework is not completed by pupils our constructive approach would be to find out why, record concern, inform parents where appropriate and offer support.

Homework should

- Take account of pupil ability and meet the needs of individual learners.
- Be realistic and manageable for pupils.
- Provide clear guidance on homework tasks.
- Be clearly linked to course work.
- Reinforce coursework.
- Reflect course content and skills.
- Be issued as part of a clear programme of work.
- Be issued in a way which allows for and assists pupil planning.

Responsibilities of Pupils

All pupils should:

- Record homework in their Pupil Planner.
- Place Pupil Planners on their desks at the beginning of every lesson (in some practical classrooms other arrangements will be made).
- Use their Pupil Planner at all times and ensure parents/carers see it every week.
- Plan to do homework at regular times.
- Commit themselves to doing homework each week while ensuring a proper work life balance is maintained.
- Never put off until tomorrow what can be done today.
- Plan ahead and not leave all tasks until the last available evening.
- Ask parents and/or staff if there are problems with general planning or doing specific tasks.
- Discuss homework with parents.
- Keep to deadlines.
- Ensure that employment does not interfere with, or affect the standard of, homework tasks.
- Liaise with the class teacher to ensure that they catch up with any class work that they may have missed.

Responsibility of Parent/Carer

Parent/Carer should:

- Take an interest in homework tasks and their relationship to school work.
- Provide time to support and encourage a homework routine.
- Provide a place for homework – if possible a suitable table with a comfortable upright chair with good lighting, appropriate heating and away from other distractions.
- Support the school in implementing and sustaining the homework policy.
- Check the Student Planner and sign this on a weekly basis.
- Contact the school if there are concerns relating to homework.
- Offer encouragement at all times.
- Ensure that if you child is employed, it does not affect his/her education.
- Encourage your child to ask for help and if the parent/carers cannot help, suggest they ask a teacher or friend.
- Avoid family holidays in term as this will interfere with progress.
- Ensure that they are aware of the procedures regarding non return of homework.

The frequency of homework will be influenced by a number of factors and one subject should not be compared with another. Factors such as the year a pupil is in, the level of study, the type of homework given, the time of year and the number of periods studied per week will influence the frequency of homework.

The frequency of homework is no more important than the type of homework or the reason for giving homework. If you have any concerns the website gives more information on this issue.

When pupils do not complete homework this will be recorded. On the third occasion, parents will be lettered.

Frequency of Homework

Subject: Art and Design

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>In each 6 week block, pupils within Art & Design should expect to receive homework as appropriate. The homework issued will compliment and inform the work done in class. This could be in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and investigation (drawing and collecting).• Development of ideas from class work.• Artist and Designer Research.
S2	<p>In each 6 week block, pupils within Art & Design should expect to receive homework as appropriate. The homework issued will compliment and inform the work done in class. This could be in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research and investigation (drawing and collecting).• Development of ideas from class work.• Artist and Design Research.
S3	<p>Throughout S3 pupils will be developing their practical skills. Pupils will be issued with homework to allow them to further develop the skills and techniques learned in class.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will be expected to collect and supply images that are appropriate for their class work.• Pupils will be expected to complete research on at least 2 Artists and their work and compile this into an Expressive Essay.
S4	<p>Pupils will begin working more independently throughout S4 and therefore will be expected to complete class work at home as appropriate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils will be expected to bring in objects and/or imagery to help inform their expressive ideas.• Pupils will also be expected to collect research images which will add to their design folio.• Pupils will be expected to complete research on at least 2 designs/designers and their works and compile this into a Design essay.
S5/S6	<p>Throughout S5/S6 pupils are expected to work independently and show case their individual creative talents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils are expected to bring in objects and/or imagery to help inform their own decisions on their expressive work.• Pupils are expected to produce high quality drawings for their practical folios.• Pupils are expected to supply theme and market research which will inform the decisions they make with regards to their design folio.• Pupils will be expected to do 4 Art studies essay that will inform their practical and written course work.• Pupils are expected to use home and supported study to enable them to meet deadlines set.

Subject: Biology

Year Group	Statement
S3/S4	<p>Biology Intermediate 1</p> <p>Mixture of knowledge & understanding along with problem solving tasks.</p> <p>In addition, pupils will be asked to complete class work and revise key concepts and ideas on a daily basis.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Biology Advanced Higher</p> <p>Mixture of knowledge & understanding along with data interpretations set to SQA standard.</p> <p>In addition, pupils must undertake a significant proportion of independent study at home where they should revise key concepts and ideas covered in class and carry out more in depth reading on topics dealt with in the course.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Human Biology Higher</p> <p>Mixture of knowledge & understanding along with problem solving tasks.</p> <p>In addition, pupils will be required to complete class work and revise key concepts and ideas every single day.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Biology Intermediate 2</p> <p>Mixture of knowledge & understanding along with problem solving tasks.</p> <p>In addition, pupils will be required to complete class work and revise key concepts and ideas on a daily basis.</p>

Subject: Chemistry

Year Group	Statement
S3/S4	Homework will be based on problem sheets/past papers or a combination of both. Homework will be issued at key points during the course to help pupils prepare for assessments and prelim examinations.
S5/S6	Chemistry Higher Homework may be written/learning key factors or a combination of both. The written homework could be based on prepared problem sheets of past paper questions. Pupils must also spend time reviewing notes from each lesson.
S5/S6	Chemistry Intermediate 2 Homework may be written/learning key facts or a combination of both. The written homework could be based on prepared problem sheets or past paper questions. Pupils must also spend time reviewing notes from each lesson.

Subject: Computing and Computing Studies

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>Elective – Scratch. Pupils encourage to log on and join with Scratch.</p> <p>Pupils are able to share programming solutions.</p>
S2	n/a
S3	<p>Homework given for each topic of work. GPPs (Word Processing, Databases, Spreadsheets, Graphics, Multi-Media, Web), Communication Systems and Networks, Automated Systems, Commercial Data Processing, Computer Systems.</p> <p>Questions are based on past papers.</p>
S4	<p>Homework given for each topic of work. GPPs (Word Processing, Databases, Spreadsheets, Graphics, Multi-Media, Web), Communication Systems and Networks, Automated Systems, Commercial Data Processing, Computer Systems.</p> <p>Questions are based on past papers.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Higher – Red Ink style homework with teacher comments – homework based on pre-2005 Higher NABs. Frequency 1 per week or 1 fortnightly depending on the topic or practical work being done at the time.</p> <p>Pupils are expected to complete past paper type questions nearer the exams.</p> <p>Intermediate 2 – Textbook “How to Pass Intermediate 2 Computing” used for homework on each of the topics.</p> <p>One exercise per week.</p>

Subject: Design Technology

Year Group	Statement
S1	Per unit where formal is available. Informal numerous times where appropriate per unit. (Unit length = 9 lessons).
S2	Per unit where formal is available. Informal numerous times where appropriate per unit. (Unit length = 9 lessons).

Subject: English and Modern Languages

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>Pupils are expected to revisit new vocabulary learned in class. This homework will be ongoing every time there is new vocabulary.</p> <p>Teaching points are expected to be revised after lessons. At times and, as appropriate, pupils will be asked to prepare short talks or do research on some aspect of the country or culture and present to the class. Homework will also be given to address particular needs.</p> <p>Pupils are also encouraged to use various language websites such as Linguascope etc. They will also practise dictionary skills and will also be asked to complete short reading and writing tasks such as puzzles, worksheets, matching activities etc.</p>
S2	<p>As above. With a greater emphasis on increasing the complexity of Speaking and writing.</p> <p>Whilst pupils might not be given formal homework every lesson, they are encouraged to establish good habits in learning new vocabulary. We recommend spending 15 – 20 minutes on new vocabulary every weekend.</p>
S3	<p>In these years pupils will continue to learn new vocabulary, but can expect a substantial piece of homework every week.</p> <p>At times, as appropriate to progression through the course pupils can be asked to redraft or to make improvements to longer written pieces of work, prepare for speaking assessments or undertake past paper questions.</p> <p>All pupils in French would be expected to have completed their Standard Grade Writing folio to the best of their ability- this work will be revisited in S4.</p>
S4	<p>Greater emphasis on preparing for the final examinations, in particular on producing a final version of their folio and on obtaining the best grade possible for the speaking element of the course. This may include the setting of past papers as homework.</p> <p>Increasingly, pupils will be directed to GLOW for Homework.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Vocabulary and grammar are still the major themes in homework but as Pupils progress to Int 2 and Higher in French or Spanish, they can expect at least two extended pieces of homework but should regard this as a minimum and seek to do more.</p> <p>One piece of homework will be developmental and encourage independent learning – such as extending vocabulary through direction to various texts in French or Spanish – the other piece will tend to be Reading Comprehension or translation and be focussed on Examination Skills which will focus on key areas of grammar, vocabulary and phrases which will help pupils to develop their speaking and writing skills.</p>

Subject: Graphic Communication

Year Group	Statement
S5/S6	Formal homework on Knowledge & Interpretation – 1 every 2 weeks.

Subject: History

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>Unit – The Wars of Independence. Homework tasks are given as appropriate and are listed in a homework booklet which accompanies the unit.</p> <p>Pupils are asked to complete a range of activities with some informal homework tasks also being set. The amount of time spent on homework equates to approximately 3 hours over a 6 week period.</p>
S2	<p>Unit – Civil Rights in the USA. Formal homework tasks for this unit are currently being reviewed but pupils will be asked to complete a range of more informal homework assignments such as revision of their class notes and understanding, completion of class assignments and, where appropriate, additional research work.</p>
S3	<p>Standard Grade course. Pupils are asked to complete a range of homework tasks and are issued with homework most weeks which should take approximately one hour. Homework tasks are usually formal, but may also be informal where pupils may be asked to read books etc relating to the topic of study.</p> <p>Part of the homework also involves pupils reading notes on the current weeks lessons to ensure that their understanding of the topic is good. Opportunity will be given at the start of a lesson, where the previous lessons LO's are reviewed, to ask questions on any areas which they are still unclear of. Pupils are usually asked to complete past paper questions, but they may also be asked to complete research work for those being presented at General or Credit level.</p> <p>All homework issued should be appropriate to the level that the pupil is capable of, and their individual needs. Not all of the time allocated to homework will involve the pupils completing written work.</p>
S4	<p>As with S3. The amount of homework given is likely to increase at prelim and exam time.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Int level – pupils are given homework which will take 1hour to 1.5 hours to complete. Pupils are given past paper questions or may on occasion be asked to complete research work, or to complete tasks from class. Homework of an informal nature may also be given.</p> <p>Higher – pupil are given homework which will generally take 2 hours to complete. Pupils are set past paper questions or they may be asked to complete individual research which will help them to complete the Extended Essay part of the course which is externally assessed by the SQA.</p>

Subject: Home Economics

Year Group	Statement
S1	Each S1 topic has three homework activities to be completed in the six week block.
S2	Each S2 topic has two-three homework activities to be completed in the six week block.
S3	Standard Grade Home Economics Pupils are expected to complete one piece of homework a week. This can be a combination of past paper questions and revision questions.
S4	Standard Grade Home Economics Pupils are expected to complete past paper questions to reinforce knowledge and understanding. Test your knowledge activity books are issued when completing individual topics.
S5/S6	Higher/Intermediate 2 Health & Food Technology Pupils are expected to complete reading/revision from essential knowledge topics. Each topic within the Higher and Intermediate 2 level has a homework booklet which is expected to be completed on a weekly basis. Past paper questions are also used for revision/homework when appropriate.

Subject: Hospitality

Year Group	Statement
S4	<p>Practice recipe book at home. (prelim and assessment dishes or techniques ie julienne cuts of veg)</p> <p>Time plans x 4. Food hygiene homework booklet. Practice assignment plan of work revision exercise.</p> <p>Nab Revision (once a month).</p>
S5/S6	<p>Practice recipe book at home (once a week). (revise prelim and assessment dishes or techniques ie julienne cuts of veg)</p> <p>Time plans x 6. Foods of the world homework booklet. Healthy eating homework booklet. Practical assignment plan of work revision exercise.</p> <p>Nab Revision (once a month).</p>

Subject: Media Studies

Year Group	Statement
S1	n/a
S2	n/a
S3	<p>Pupils are given homework once a week.</p> <p>This may be written homework based on a class topic, or it may be research, especially for the Production Unit. Pupils may be asked to complete a task begun in school.</p>
S4	<p>Pupils are given homework once a week, written or research, depending on the unit being tackled.</p> <p>Exam preparation – past paper questions – will be given out as homework – particularly as prelim and SQA exams approach.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Pupils are given homework once a week – as with S4 – written or research eg Survey – depending on the unit.</p> <p>Exam preparation – past paper questions – will be given out as homework – particularly as prelim and SQA exams approach.</p>

Subject: Modern Studies

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>Unit – Living in a Democracy. Homework tasks are given as appropriate and the current homework is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>Pupils are asked to complete a range of activities with some informal homework tasks also being set. The amount of time spent on homework equates to approximately 3 hours over a 6 week period.</p>
S2	<p>Unit – The USA. Homework tasks are given as appropriate to compliment the learning of pupils in the class.</p> <p>A range of tasks are given to pupils including internet research work and enquiry skills work.</p> <p>Where appropriate, pupils are given a choice of homework task to complete with some of the tasks bringing imaginative writing in. Pupils will spend approximately 3 hours on their homework during a 7 week period.</p>
S3	<p>Standard Grade course. Pupils are asked to complete a range of homework tasks and are issued with homework most weeks which should take approximately one hour.</p> <p>Homework tasks are usually formal, but may also be informal where pupils may be encouraged to watch current affairs programmes or read articles to enhance their understanding of topic content.</p> <p>Part of the homework also involves pupils reading notes on the current weeks lessons to ensure that their understanding of the topic is good.</p> <p>Opportunity will be given at the start of a lesson, where the previous lessons LO's are reviewed, to ask questions on any areas which they are still unclear of.</p> <p>Pupils are usually asked to complete past paper questions, but they may also be asked to complete research work or reports on topical issues for those being presented at General or Credit level.</p> <p>All homework issued should be appropriate to the level that the pupil is capable of and their individual needs.</p>
S4	<p>As with S3. The amount of homework is given is likely to increase at prelim and exam time.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Intermediate level – pupils are given homework which will take 1 hour to 1.5 hours to complete.</p> <p>Pupils are given past paper questions or may on occasion be asked to complete research work, or to complete tasks from class. Homework of an informal nature may also be given.</p> <p>Higher – pupils are given homework which will generally take 2 hours to complete.</p>

	<p>Pupils are set past paper questions or they may be asked to complete homework tasks from the Modernity Scotland website.</p> <p>At times they will also be asked to complete reports on topical issues.</p> <p>Advanced Higher – the type of homework that is given at this level varies greatly and requires a large amount of individual responsibility.</p> <p>Pupils are expected to spend approximately 3 hours per week on individual study, and during this time they may have been asked to complete tasks from their Expanded Contents List, past papers or individual research.</p> <p>At this level pupils are also expected, out with the classroom, to work together on producing reports and presentations which they will then use to deliver lessons to the rest of the class on a given topic.</p> <p>Between September and April, pupils must also work on and complete a 5,000 word dissertation which forms part of their SQA award and is externally assessed.</p>
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With all levels, pupils are offered a great deal of teacher support to complete homework tasks to a certain standard, and within clear and given deadlines. Pupils are also offered the use of departmental resources to complete their homework should they have difficulty in accessing certain methods of enquiry at home. With Modern Studies, pupils at all levels are encouraged to watch current affairs programmes, and to read quality newspapers.

Subject: Music

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>In a 6 week block, pupils should expect to receive formal homework approximately 3 times. This would be in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research or investigative work.• CORE Music Skills – rudiments of music/theory.• Practise for instrumental work.
S2	<p>In a 6 week block, pupils should expect to receive formal homework approximately 3 times. This would be in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research or investigative work.• CORE Music Skills – rudiments of music/theory.• Practice for instrumental work.
S3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils are expected to practise for their 2 instruments. <u>Four</u> practise session per week. Half Hour on each instrument. Where an instrument is not available at home, the dept facilities are available at interval, lunch and after school by arrangement with the Music staff.• In addition to this pupils will be given homework for listening and composition as and when it is required.
S4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils are expected to practise for their 2 instruments. <u>Four</u> practise session per week. Half Hour on each instrument. Where an instrument is not available at home, the dept facilities are available at interval, lunch and after school by arrangement with the Music staff.• In addition to this pupils will be given homework for listening and composition as and when it is required.
S5/S6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pupils are expected to practise for their 2 instruments. <u>Five</u> practise session per week. Half Hour on each instrument. Where an instrument is not available at home, the dept facilities are available at interval, lunch and after school by arrangement with the Music staff.• In addition to this pupils will be given homework for listening and composition as and when it is required.

Subject: Physical Education

Year Group	Statement
S1	<p>Homework will be given to support the work of the class where appropriate. S1 pupils within a 6 week block can expect to receive formal homework twice. This would take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research/investigate work.• Food diary/Physical diary.• Practical performance related to the block.
S2	<p>Homework will be given to support the work of the class where appropriate. S2 pupils within a 6 week block can expect to receive formal homework twice. This would take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research/investigate work.• Food diary/Physical diary.• Practical performance related to the block.
S3	<p>Homework will be given to support the work of the class where appropriate. S3 Certificate PE or Sports Leaders pupils can expect to receive formal homework approximately once per week. This would take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision of class work.• Past paper questions.• Research/investigate work.
S4	<p>Homework will be given to support the work of the class where appropriate. S4 Certificate PE or Sports Leaders pupils can expect to receive formal homework approximately once per week. This would take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision of class work.• Past paper questions.• Research/investigate work.
S5/S6	<p>Homework will be given to support the work of the class where appropriate. S5/S6 Certificate PE or Sports Leaders pupils can expect to receive formal homework approximately once per week. This would take the form of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revision of class work.• Past paper questions.• Research/investigation work.

Subject: Physics

Year Group	Statement
S3/S4	<p>Physics Standard Grade</p> <p>Pupils are issued with a 'Progressive Problems in Physics' textbook.</p> <p>Pupils will complete exercises from the textbook/past paper questions or a combination of both.</p>
S3/S4	<p>Physics Intermediate 1</p> <p>At least 3 formal homework sheets per unit.</p> <p>Past paper questions at key points in the course to prepare for assessments/examinations.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Physics Advanced Higher</p> <p>Pupils are issued with a set of progressive problems.</p> <p>Homework will be based on problem sheets/past papers or a combination of both.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Physics Higher</p> <p>Pupils are issued with a 'Progressive Problems in Physics' textbook.</p> <p>Pupils will complete exercises from the textbook/past paper questions or a combination of both.</p> <p>Pupils will also be issued with formal homework exercises to check understanding throughout the course.</p>
S5/S6	<p>Physics Intermediate 2</p> <p>Informal homework issued to complete classwork tasks.</p> <p>Pupils will also be issued with formal homework exercises/past paper questions to check understanding throughout the course.</p>

Subject: Science

Year Group	Statement
S1/S2	<p>Pupils will complete informal homework tasks as appropriate. These tasks may include: drawing graphs, analyzing data, writing conclusions or research.</p> <p>Pupils will be given written homework at least twice per Experience & Outcome.</p> <p>This homework will be completed in their homework jotter.</p> <p>Throughout the Tropical Science unit, pupils should be researching at home/library using ICT/textbooks to enhance their project.</p>

Subject: Technological Studies

Year Group	Statement
S3	Topic related: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informal (complete classwork).• Formal every 2 weeks.
S4	Topic related: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informal (complete classwork).• Formal every 2 weeks.
S5/S6	Topic related: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informal (complete classwork).• 1 formal piece of homework every week.

Homework Policy – Recommendations

- Less focus on recording LO's and more focus on recording Homework.

Response: **Interim Pupil Planner in used only for recording homework. Learning Outcomes are recorded elsewhere.**

- The purpose of Homework needs to be explained to pupils.

Response: **Will be a theme for a House Assembly.**

- "Homework Policy" changed to "Additional Work Policy".

Response: **Homework will remain the main title as parents fed back that it would be confusing.**

- School Policy should comprise of Individual Faculty/Development Policy.

Response: **Individual subject entry in relation to the frequent of homework given.**

- Feedback essential from parents in the form of standard letter.

Response: **Faculty Heads will be asked if they wish/require a standard letter to inform parents of non-completion of homework.**

- Pupils should be given recognition for completing their homework (Merit/Demerit system) with some reward at end of year.

Response: **Good idea. To be passed to Rewarding Success team to be auctioned.**

- Make new policy widely available to parents.

Response: **Parents informed of new policy – they can get a copy from the school office and it will be available on the school website.**

- Be clearer about the amount of homework for each level.

Response: **Departmental entry will cover the frequency of homework.**

- Quicker notification to parents for failure to do homework.

Response: **Issue to be raised with Faculty Heads.**

- Use all forms of communications.

Response: **This issue needs to be explored further.**

- Extend use of web page.

Response: **This policy will be held on the school website. All staff can access GLOW and can up-load homework. Pupils having a username/password will be addressed from Oct-Dec.**

- Define the meaning of homework for parents.

Response: **This will be contained in the policy.**