

Balfron High School Homework Policy

Revised 21/06/21

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Guidance for Parents/Carers & Pupils

Rationale

At Balfron High School, homework is set with the intention that it will have beneficial effects on a pupil's work habits and educational experience. Homework plays an important part in the development of study skills and the fostering of independent learning. As such, homework should be appropriate to pupil ability, set with sufficient time for completion and have a clear purpose.

Communicating Tasks & Accessing Work

Pupils are responsible for keeping track of their homework and spreading the associated workload across weeknights. To support pupils with this, Google Classroom is used to communicate homework tasks with pupils and parents/carers. How-to links are provided below.

- Each BHS pupil has access to Google Classroom via their school G-Suite account (@stirlingschools.net). Google classroom provides a "To-Do" list which can be found at the top left of the homepage. This to-do list **should be checked daily**.
- A summary of current assignments is provided to parents via Google Classroom's [Guardian Summaries](#) feature. The school admin team will invite all guardians to receive these using the primary email address we hold on record for you. Upon accepting the invitation, if signed in with a Google account, parents may choose to receive these updates either daily or weekly. Please [contact the school](#) if you have not received an invite to receive Guardian Summaries or if you have stopped receiving them.
- All homework assignments will be posted on Google Classroom. While many of these will be submitted digitally via classroom, even tasks to be submitted in person will be posted to provide a reminder. Pupils can mark assignments as done in order to remove them from the to-do list.
- To differentiate between classwork and homework assignments set on Google Classroom, tasks will be clearly titled by teachers to indicate they are homework, or prefixed "HW" in the title.

Time

A guideline for an appropriate amount of time to spend on homework & study per weeknight has been arrived at following consultation with parents, pupils and teachers, alongside consideration of academic research on the subject. Further information can be found in the appendices.

The daily guideline assumes pupils are spreading their workload over the school week. However, depending on the individual pupil and their approach, a reasonable degree of variation is to be expected, particularly in certificate classes (S4-6). This should not be seen as a target, and if pupils do not have homework, we would encourage them to spend time on revision, reading, or other constructive activities.

Year Group	Appropriate Expectation	Maximum
S1-2	30 minutes	60 minutes
S3	45 minutes	90 minutes
S4	60 minutes	100 minutes
S5-6	90 minutes	120 minutes

Frequency

BGE (S1-3)

- Each subject team will produce a revised indicative plan outlining general homework expectations over the year, when published, this will be found on the school website's Parentzone section.
- One week will ordinarily be provided for homework tasks to be completed. This should allow pupils to complete homework over five weeknights and keep weekends free, provided they plan appropriately.
- Completion time will increase by an appropriate amount for tasks which are anticipated to take an extended amount of time. Pupils must take this into account when planning their workload.

S4-6

- Where possible, one week will be given for completion of homework tasks. However, due to the increased contact with each teacher and reduced number of subjects at this stage, pupils may be asked to complete some tasks more promptly.
- For SQA certificate courses, completion of coursework may form a component of homework. Frequency will be dependent on SQA deadlines and will be communicated with pupils well in advance. Where SQA coursework is overdue, or there is evidence to suggest a pupil has fallen behind, this will be communicated to parents/carers.

Relationship With Positive Behaviour Policy

- Excellence merits are awarded for homework which is completed to a particularly high standard, or where it is evident that significant effort has been applied beyond normal expectations.
- A 'no homework' demerit will be issued when homework is not submitted by the due date, unless a parental note/email is provided. (please see *Dealing With Homework Issues* section for further info).
- Taking into consideration the pupil's ability, a 'lack of effort' demerit may also be issued where the pupil has submitted work which is significantly incomplete, or shows no tangible effort to complete the task properly.
- Repeated non-completion of homework, without good reason, will result in a referral to the pupil's pastoral teacher (usually the form class leader).
- Demerits will not be issued where the task was not posted on Classroom.

Dealing With Homework Issues

Pupils are expected to take a reasonable degree of responsibility for managing their workload and solving problems per the advice below. However, where a parent/carer feels there is a valid reason for their child to be excused from completing homework, a brief note to this effect should be provided for them to share with the relevant teachers.

You do not understand/remember how to complete the homework set by your teacher

- Check the Classroom to-do list regularly (ideally install the app. on your phone), and carefully read the assignment instructions. If you do not understand a task, this will allow enough time to seek help.
- If you are not going to have that class again before the homework is due, your Form Class Leader (FCL) will let you visit the relevant teacher during form-time to ask for help.
- If you are unable to contact your teacher, a parental note should be provided to explain the situation. Alternatively, this may be emailed to the pupil's pastoral point of contact (usually the FCL).

You cannot access a resource or piece of work which is online

- Check you can access any online resources which are part of the homework as early as possible. This will ensure that if there is a problem, there is enough time to request a paper copy or assistance before the task is due.
- If an online service is not working, please take a screenshot/picture or video of what is shown on the screen. Sharing this with the teacher will help them identify the problem and provide evidence that you attempted the task.
- If there is no internet connection at home for an extended period of time, please provide a note or email to your FCL so they can inform your teachers.

You will not have time to complete a piece of homework by the due date

- We understand that pupils can have a busy life outside of school. This may mean they do not have time to complete a homework task by the due date.
- In this event, parents or carers are asked to provide a note which can be shown to the relevant teachers, or email the FCL with the date/s that homework is to be excused for.
- Where appropriate, particularly in senior years, pupils may make contact with their teacher to agree an extension if this is deemed necessary.

You consistently spend more time on homework than the guideline for your year group

- We have no intention of placing unreasonable demands on pupils so, in the first instance, the FCL should be informed of your concerns. They will be able to contact colleagues to determine what actions are appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

You were absent on the day homework was set

- If absent for a short period (one or two days), pupils should check SMH when they are well enough, then see their teachers upon returning to school for any necessary advice or resources before the task is due.
- If the absence is over a longer period of time, teachers may offer an extension if the task is of high importance, or excuse non-completion if this is more appropriate.

Factors Influencing Homework Time Guideline

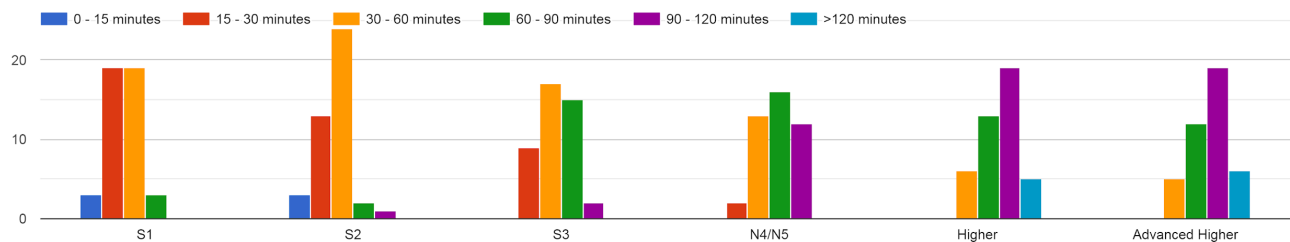
In order to produce a fair guideline for homework time within this policy a range of views and information were gathered. A summary of the most significant findings is provided below.

- **Survey response from pupils in each year group, when asked how long pupils in their year should be expected to spend on homework each weeknight.**

Year Group	Average Response (minutes)
S1	29
S2	30
S3	35
S4	56
S5	73
S6	53

- **Survey responses from Teachers, when asked how long pupils at each stage should be expected to spend on homework each weeknight.**

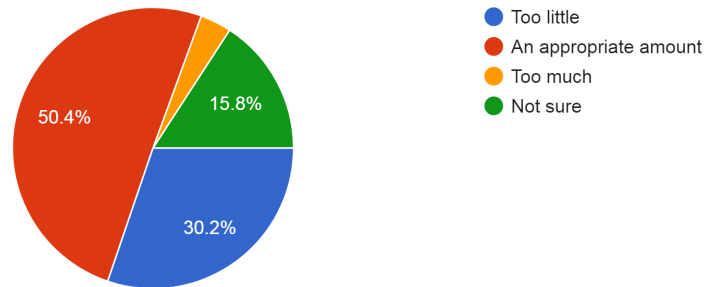
What do you think is a reasonable amount of time for pupils to spend on homework each weeknight (in total, not just for your subject)?



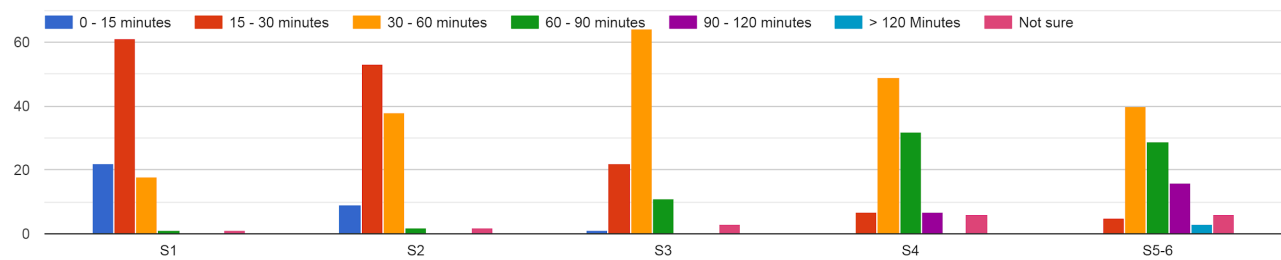
- **Survey responses from parents & carers, when asked for their views about time spent on homework**

What is your view on the amount of homework received by your child?

139 responses



What would be a reasonable amount of time for pupils in these yeargroups to spend on homework each weeknight?



The maximum figure was based on [research](#) which suggests a general guideline for the maximum amount of time to be spent on homework.