



HUNTERHOUSE COLLEGE  
**HOMEWORK POLICY**

Date/Date Reviewed: March 2013\*

Previous: 2008

Next Review due: March 2015

\*Change/s: Please note that there have been major changes to the policy

Consultation Period: February + March 2013

Groups Consulted: Parents: PTA and website consultation  
Pupils: School Council

This policy is available in pdf format from the school website

[www.hunterhousecollege.org.uk](http://www.hunterhousecollege.org.uk)

or on request from the School Office 028 9061 2293

[info@hunterhousecollege.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@hunterhousecollege.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

## Principles

In Hunterhouse College the setting and marking of homework should:

- encourage girls to develop the practice of independent study
- develop perseverance and self discipline
- support the learning developed first in the classroom
- extend learning beyond that which may be possible in the classroom
- help develop an appropriate pace of learning
- enable identification of an individual girl's strengths and weaknesses
- enable parents to become aware of the girl's work
- take into account the ages, abilities and needs of the pupils

## Purposes

In Hunterhouse College the setting and marking of homework should

- reinforce and extend the learning which has already begun to develop in the classroom
- enable girls to exercise initiative in producing good quality work
- enable girls to develop problem solving skills
- enable girls to develop investigative skills
- allow girls to exploit the learning environment beyond the classroom and the school
- offer a means by which parents can become aware of the nature of the work required from the girls
- support the preparation and development of coursework/controlled assessment items for public examination

## Improvement Criteria

In setting and marking of homework at Hunterhouse College we shall be successful when:

- homework is set and marked regularly by all teachers for all girls
- each girl understands the principles and purpose of homework and always undertakes homework tasks conscientiously and punctually
- homework is valued by girls as a means of developing independent study skills and extending learning beyond that which is possible in the classroom
- pupil motivation and self esteem are enhanced
- parents are fully aware of the value of homework and supportive of the girl's need to set aside study time regularly outside the classroom

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- The policy will be reviewed every two years in consultation with pupils, parents and teachers

## Guidelines to Whole School Policy on Homework

- A homework timetable will be drawn up annually by the appropriate Head of Year/School for girls in years 8 - 12. This will be done in consultation with the Form Teacher and Curriculum Co-ordinator. It will make clear the day of the week on which homework will be set. It is expected that pupils will record the homework in their diaries for the day when the homework is due.
- Homework will usually be set once a week in each subject. Homework will be more frequent in those subjects for which most lessons are time-tabled. (In Languages a homework is usually set after each lesson.)
- Where possible teachers will set homework which is to be completed after not less than two school evenings. This allows flexibility for an individual girl who may wish to pursue extra curricular activities either in or out of school.
- Homework assignments will be varied in nature. There may not always be a written outcome; assessment of written work will be carried out according to guidelines within each department.
- The maximum recommended time to be spent by the pupil on homework is as follows:

### Key Stage 3 (Years 8 – 10)

|                   | Year 8                       | Year 9                       | Year 10                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                   | minutes of homework per week | minutes of homework per week | minutes of homework per week |
| English           | 50                           | 60                           | 70                           |
| Maths             | 50                           | 60                           | 70                           |
| LLW               | 20                           | 20                           | 20                           |
| Science           | 50                           | 60                           | 70                           |
| Biology           |                              |                              |                              |
| Chemistry         |                              |                              |                              |
| Physics           |                              |                              |                              |
| Languages         | 40                           |                              |                              |
| French            |                              | 80                           | 80                           |
| Spanish           |                              |                              |                              |
| German            |                              |                              |                              |
| Art               | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| Geography         | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| History           | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| Home Economics    | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| ICT               | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| Music             | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| Religious Studies | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| Technology        | 35                           | 35                           | 35                           |
| MINUTES           | 490.00                       | 560.00                       | 590.00                       |
| HOURS & MINUTES   | 8:10                         | 9:20                         | 9:50                         |
| PER WEEK:         | MAXIMUM                      |                              |                              |

## **Homework - Key Stage 4: Years 11 and 12**

Since girls choose different option subjects, an individual girl's homework timetable is determined by that choice. At the beginning of both Years 11 and 12, girls are given guidance on their personal homework timetable. In Year 11 this topic will be addressed at the Induction Event for Pupils and Parents.

Taking account of any permanent commitments e.g. Hockey Practice, Choir, etc girls are expected to be doing the equivalent of 2.5 hours study (inclusive of homework) per weekday evening, i.e. a total of 12.5 hours per week. This may not always be possible during the week but study time must then be found at the weekend to compensate. The amount of time spent will have to vary slightly depending on the commitment required by subjects and the effectiveness of a girl's workrate. It is emphasised that if the recommended time is earmarked as study time and becomes part of a routine, girls will be able to use it not only for written work but for review of classwork and planning of coursework in advance.

Great stress is laid on organisation, pre-planning and constant revision of work at this level.

**Years 11 and 12: Total per week - not less than 12.5 hours approximately**

## **Homework – Key Stage 5: Years 13 and 14**

In Year 13 girls are offered guidance in basic study skills within tutor groups and by their specific subject teachers. It is expected that they make use of the Guided Learning Log so that they are able to use private study periods constructively and that they appreciate that this time is intended as a supplement to the intensive study which they should undertake at home.

**Years 13 and 14: Most courses will demand at least 5 hours individual study/homework time each per week i.e. for girls taking 4 subjects - 20 hours per week.**

### **5) Sanctions**

Failure to complete homework satisfactorily will be addressed by the relevant subject teacher in a manner which s/he finds appropriate - this may include use of the detention system.

- completion dates should be negotiated through class/teacher discussion
- any re-negotiation must be well in advance of the agreed deadline
- it will be made clear to pupils that teachers may not be able to provide comprehensive feedback or opportunities for redrafting of late submissions
- those who do not respond should be referred to the Head of Department, with the request for assistance with drawing up a plan for structuring work and meeting deadlines.
- should the pupils fail to respond to departmental support then the Form Teacher and the Head of Year should be consulted for advice.
- if, further to such advice being acted upon there is still no appropriate response, then the Head of Year or School should liaise with the Head of Department, Form Teacher and class teacher and probably parents as to the best way forward.

### **6) Communications to Parents, Governors, Teachers and Pupils**

- to parents - via the homework diary for which pupils have responsibility
- to the Governing Body - via the School Policy handbook
- to teachers - via the Staff Guide
- to pupils - via the subject teacher
- to all – via policy on school website

### **7) Linked Documents**

- Individual departmental policies
- Rewards & Sanctions Policy