



## Home Learning Policy- May 2024

*“Effective teaching is not enough. Success for our young people also relies (along with good teaching) on the home learning and self-directed learning that they do out of school hours, and classroom teaching flourishes when good teaching and self-directed learning meet. We know that those who are going to do well in life are marked out by their self-esteem, their motivation and their ability to take responsibility for the own learning.”* Professor John MacBeath (Emeritus Professor, Cambridge University)

### Purpose of Home Learning

The main purpose of home learning is to encourage pupils to develop the skills, confidence and motivation needed to study effectively on their own. A balanced and planned approach to home learning contributes to a young person's overall chances of personal success at school. Home Learning includes giving pupils the opportunity to:

- Plan and organize their time effectively.
- Develop good study habits, self-discipline and independent learning.
- Consolidate, practice, finish, supplement or extend the work covered in class.
- Prepare for assessments and examinations.
- Develop confidence to deal with frustrations, overcome difficulties and solve problems.

Home Learning can take many forms and may not always be a piece of written work. Not all Home Learning will be marked by the classroom teacher, for example the learning of vocabulary, online collaborations, or self-marking quizzes aimed to encourage learners to recall information. Not all pupils in the same class will necessarily be given the same Home Learning tasks and consideration will be given to individual pupil need and ability when setting homework.

### Regularity of Home Learning

After consultation with young people and families, feedback demonstrated that around 2-3 hours of home learning activities per week was appropriate for young people in S1-S3. Therefore, as a school, we have agreed that our expectation is that all young people to receive around 2-3 hours per week in the Broad General Education. This is in relation to specific tasks issued by teachers and this does not take into account personal reading, self-directed study and personal fitness which are important activities that should be taking place throughout the course of the year.

We understand that some young people appreciate the challenge of homework and if you would like your child to receive additional homework in a particular curricular area then this may be accommodated upon request.

In the Senior Phase (S4-S6), young people are expected to receive Home Learning activities that may take 7-10 hours per week across all subjects. It would be anticipated that this will increase at certain times of the year particularly in the run up to exams.

Home Learning may also be issued to young people in core subjects such as Physical Education, Religious and Moral Education and Social Education.

#### **What to expect from Home Learning tasks:**

There will be three types of home learning tasks young people will receive:

- **PREPARE task: opportunities to learn about important class content prior to an upcoming lesson**
- **RECALL task: opportunities to recall important aspects of class content from previous lesson(s)**
- **EXTEND task: opportunities to apply learning in a new context or to deepen learning**

By ensuring that all homework tasks align with one of these purposes young people, families and teachers will develop a shared understanding of what to expect from homework.

- Home Learning tasks should be targeted towards the content that has been learnt in lessons, promoting the ability to recall subject-specific information.
- All home learning tasks will be shared with parents/carers through Class Charts and incomplete homework will result in a Homework notification on Class Charts for parents/carers to discuss with their child/young person.
- Teachers will update a young person's tracking report to demonstrate incomplete homework throughout the school session with tracking reports providing the following 4 ratings: Excellent; Good; Needs Improvement and Serious Concern.

Research shows that homework that is linked to classroom work tends to be more effective and especially those homework tasks where feedback is provided. Teachers will provide homework feedback through the following ways:

- Written feedback
- Oral feedback
- Score related to task

Through home learning tasks and appropriate feedback, young people should become more informed about what they know, what they need to improve upon and how they might be able to do so.

**All home learning tasks should be issued with at least 4 days' notice for completion.**

## **Access to Home Learning**

We recognize that our young people have different home contexts with varying degrees of access to IT in order to complete home learning tasks. All young people should have access to at least one device, however if support is required with IT then school may be able to provide assistance. Please contact the school at [TCSOAContact@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:TCSOAContact@pkc.gov.uk) and we will try our best to provide you with an appropriate device in order to complete home learning tasks.

In order to provide all young people with quiet spaces to complete homework tasks, young people can access our School Library at break times and lunch as well as after school. There are also many opportunities for supported study and young people and families receive copies of our study offer at the beginning of each new school year.

## **Setting and Recording Homework**

All home learning tasks will be assigned through Class Charts to alert parents/carers to a new homework task. Parents/carers will be able to see the deadline for each task as well as a brief statement regarding the nature of the homework or a reference to Microsoft Teams, where the task may be shared.

Teachers will update the submission status of each homework task to one of the following options after the deadline:

- Submitted
- Not Submitted
- Extenuating Circumstances
- Late (used if a teacher has agreed an extension with a young person)

The class teacher will remind young people in class to complete their outstanding homework task, however if homework is not submitted by the deadline and/or by any extension given by the teacher, then each pupil will receive a 'Homework Not Submitted' award on Class Charts. This homework record will also inform the rating entered for 'Homework' on each young person's tracking report.

Deadlines should be adhered to by young people and homework handed in after the deadline may not be marked by teachers and may still result in a 'Homework Not Submitted' being awarded on Class Charts. Exceptions to this rule may apply in instances of pupil absence and/or agreed extension with teacher.

Class Charts reports will be produced every week to identify young people who are continually failing to hand in homework. These reports will then enable Guidance/DHTs to contact home and to offer some extra support to ensure young people complete homework regularly.