



KINROSS HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING TOGETHER ♦ ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Course Choice Policy

February 2022

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Author(s)

This policy document was prepared by

Andrew Baxby

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OVERVIEW

This policy has been written to provide our Learning Community with information about the course choice procedure that young people make as they transition through school (in particular this policy applies to young people in S2 moving on to S3, S3 to S4, S4 to S5 and S5 to S6).

BACKGROUND

A young person's course choice is essential in supporting their progression to a sustained positive destination in life. Young people are often very clear in their chosen subjects. We make every effort to give the young person their first choice wherever possible. Where this is not possible, support is offered to make alternative choices.

You will find answers to potential questions about course choice in the pathways section of the school website: <https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/pupils/pathways/>

Course Choice

What is the course choice offer?

Our course choice offer is driven by several factors which are influenced by national and local policies. Please click [here](#) to view our curriculum structure or search [Kinross High School Pathways](#).

S2 into S3

In S3 our offer is shaped by the guidelines of Curriculum for Excellence and young people will make 9 subject choices, one from each curricular area (english, maths, a modern language, a social subject, an expressive art subject, a technology subject and a science) and 2 'free' choices.

S3 into S4

In S4, pupils choose to remove 2 of their subjects at this stage and carry on with the remaining 7 subjects (must include Maths and English). The subjects they choose to continue with should be those which give them the best chance of success. All subjects from S3 offered again in S4.

S4 into S5 and S5 into S6

In S5/6, the choices offered are based factors such as the expertise of the teachers, the resources available, the offer from partners such as Perth College, and the likely destinations of the young people.

Which courses will run? Class size viability

Our aim is to provide young people with their preferred options when making their course choice however, the number of pupils choosing an option will establish whether or not a course can run.

Where a course has low uptake, we need to consider the viability of the class. Due to constraints of resourcing, it is not always possible to add more classes.

Where fewer than 10 young people have chosen a subject, we carefully consider the implication of running the class and it is likely that the course will not be viable. Class sizes will be reviewed again in June and in September.

In senior phase (S5-6) a further option is considered for smaller classes. These classes may still run but we would opt reduce the teacher contact time. Where there are fewer than 5 young people choosing a subject, the course cannot run unless an alternative arrangement can be reached with a partner school or other provider. This only applies to in-school courses.

Any young person whose first choice is not possible due to a class being undersubscribed will be supported to make appropriate alternative choices by their House Pupil Support Team.

Where classes are over-subscribed, there are several options:

- Can another class be added? (This may not be possible)
- Review in June and September to see if the numbers have changed
- Places will be allocated in the first instance to those whose chosen course is part of a pathway through the school and beyond (assuming they meet the entry requirements. After this, we would allocate places by most 'need' – those that require the qualification for their next destination.
- Re-course those young people that we cannot accommodate

Are there entry requirements?

S2 into S3

There are no entry requirements for subjects in S3.

S3 into S4

For almost all S4 subjects, young people will have studied the subject in S3. Exceptions to this should be discussed with the Principal Teacher of the subject as well as the relevant House Pupil Support Team.

Higher Courses (S5-6)

In S5/6, there are no entry requirements for level 4 or 5 qualifications. Higher qualifications generally require a pass at National 5 (A-D, although those below C level should consider very carefully their chances of success at the next level).

Advanced Higher Courses (S5-6)

For Advanced Higher qualifications, young people require an A or B at Higher in the subject. Please see the pathways section of the school website for specific details: <https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/pupils/pathways/senior-phase/>

What levels will young people be presented at? (S4-6)

A presentation level is the qualification a young person will be entered for, and these will generally range from National 3 to Advanced Higher.

We follow a positive presentation policy which enables all young people to have the best chance of success at the appropriate level. This is reviewed with the young person frequently, and formally at each tracking period. Key evidence used to determine presentation level includes a range assessment data such as prelim performance or timed work in class, prior attainment in the subject, future pathways, and overall progress through the year.

At the beginning of a timetable (normally in May) every young person is committing to a year of study in their chosen subject and courses cannot be 'dropped' through the year.

If a young person is unlikely to achieve the full course award, conversations will happen to discuss what can be achieved by looking at a range of options. These can include sitting the course over 2 years, looking at alternative courses covering similar topics at

the same level (eg National Progression Award), completing unit passes, or changing to a lower level. Withdrawal from the course should only be a last resort when all other options have been exhausted.

We encourage all young people to aim high, and they are given every opportunity to achieve a broad range of qualifications at the right level for them. Our expectation is that all young people leave Kinross High School with a minimum of 5 qualifications, including Literacy and Numeracy.

Any decision over presentation level is made in discussion with young people and (depending on age) their parents.

What happens if a student doesn't get their preferred option?

There are times when a young person's first choice of subjects is not possible. There are also times when some young people change their mind between making their choice and returning to school in August.

This can result in challenges to give young people viable options that suit their needs. There can also be a knock-on effect on the viability of classes if numbers change significantly.

It is important to note that getting the course choice right in the first place gives young people the highest chance of receiving their first choice of subjects.

There are a number of key principles that impact on re-coursing:

1. Places in June are provisional and are dependent on SQA exam results (for S5/6 courses) obtained by students and any recommendations made by staff.
2. Where a class is over-subscribed, a waiting list will be created. Places on the waiting list are prioritised by those most in 'need' of the qualification (as in part 2 of this policy), assuming the young person has the required entry requirements.
3. If no space becomes available, young people will have to either stay in their original choice or be re-coursed into a subject where there is space.
4. Students who do not meet the recommended entry requirements but who still wish to study a particular course have the right to do so provided there is a space in such a course. Students who do meet the recommended entry requirements will be given priority.

5. In August, S6 students who wish to repeat a subject should firstly discuss this with the Principal Teacher (subject) before making an appointment to see their House Pupil Support Team. If they wish to study the subject, they will continue to follow their June timetable and will be placed on a waiting list (if needed) for their re-sit course. This does not apply to those students who elected to do a course over two years.

Can young people choose courses offered by partner organisations?

While our preference is that all young people experience learning in person and with a member of the Kinross High School staff, pupils in S5-6 can access courses offered by partner organisations. These are used to broaden the offer available.

The partner organisations are detailed below. In almost all cases, these are delivered to S6 pupils. No young person should have more than 1 of these courses as part of their school experience.

Other providers' courses:

- TRIC Virtual Campus (Highers and Advanced Highers offered digitally)
- Open University Young Applicants in Scottish Schools
- Foundation Apprenticeship through Perth UHI (open to S5 and S6)
- Other Perth UHI college course (open to S5 and S6)

When will young people make their choice?

Young people will be issued with forms during February and they will be allocated an appointment with their guidance teacher to discuss their course choice in March.

How can I find out more?

Each year we will hold a pathways information evening for families during February. You can find the dates for these on our school website. <https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/about-us/calendar/>

If you require further information about this policy, please refer to our website: <https://www.kinrosshighschool.org.uk/pupils/pathways/> or contact your child's House team by emailing kinrosshigh@pkc.gov.uk