

Key Stage 3 Timetabling

Introduction

Subject Mix

The typical subject mix for Key Stage 3 is broadly similar throughout Year 7 and 8 (and Y9 if the school treats Y9 as KS3). Many schools start KS4 in Year 9; this gives pupils three years rather than two, to prepare for their GCSEs.

So what subjects, and how many lessons per subject?

Let's say each lesson will be an hour long, and there will be 5 lessons per day, then this equates to 25 hours per week. Here is how a typical week might break down into lessons per subject:

Subject	Lessons per week
Mathematics	3
English	3
Science	3
Humanities	4
MFL	2
Computing	2
Technologies	2
Creative/Expressive Arts	3
PSHE	1
PE/Sport	2

What do some of those subjects mean?

- The first three are clear enough.
- Humanities: This can include Geography, History, Religious Education (RE). Could typically be 2x Geography, 1x History, 1x RE; or 2x Geography and 2x History (depending on your view towards RE).
- MFL: Modern Foreign Language – typically French, German or Spanish; but can be another.
- Technologies: includes Design Technology, Food Technology, Textiles Technology, Electronics – can cover several by doing a different one each term.
- Creative/Expressive Arts: to include Fine Art (drawing, painting, etc), Music, Drama.
- PSHE: Public, Social and Health Education.

Key Stage 3 Timetabling

The Timetable

It is usual to have a short(ish) break in the morning, say after the second lesson, and a longer break for lunch, usually between lessons 3 and 4, although some schools have the lunch break between lessons 4 and 5.

Hints:

- It's easiest to work along the subject breakdown table, and put in all the lessons for one subject, then the next.
- Bear in mind your son/daughter's mind is likely to be "freshest" Lessons 1 and 3, so it's an idea to use those for some of the more demanding subjects, or thing s/he struggles with a bit.
- Thursday's "double" science lesson – for "experiment" or research and discovery type topics. Tuesday's lesson could then be used with your son or daughter to investigate the theory behind something you're going to explore on Thursday, or to look back over the previous Thursday and ask "what did we learn?".
- I have deliberately put the two Technologies lessons as a double, so that practical projects, like making things or cooking things can be accommodated.
- I have put the more creative and "fun" subjects later in the day – these may often be the subjects the child enjoys more, and the thought of them can be used as an incentive to try hard on the fundamental stuff earlier in the day.
- Since this is home schooling timetable, I have put the PE/PSHE lessons at the end of Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. PE/Sport can be a good end to the day or an early finish and a bit of exercise after Tuesday and at the end of the week. This might help keep your young student happy. Could even be time for a suitable hobby.
- So long as you get a mix of subjects reasonably close to those on the first page, and your son/daughter is getting some of the "hard work" subjects in the lessons where s/he is the most awake, alert and productive, it's perfectly reasonable to let her/him have some choice of what happens on which day (perhaps with a ruling that any changes are planned on a Saturday, and cannot be changed again until the next Saturday!)
- Remember, too, you can change the order of the timetable to suit the family's household timetable. For example, if Friday evening is a special family eat-together meal, you might like to move that double Technology to a Friday, and make it into a Food Technology lesson, preparing something yummy for everyone to enjoy...
- Likewise, Wednesday's Computing lesson can be something a bit more "serious", and Friday's something a bit more fun.

Key Stage 3 Timetabling

The Timetable

Here is a possible timetable. Please change this to suit you child's needs, but please also bear in mind some of the hints I have given on the previous page:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lesson 1 09:00-10:00	English	Maths	Humanities	Science	Maths
Lesson 2 10:00-11:00	Humanities	MFL	Computing	Science	English
Break					
Lesson 3 11:20-12:20	Maths	Science	English	MFL	Humanities
Lunch					
Lesson 4 13:00-14:00	Technologies	Humanities	Creative/Expressive Arts	Creative/Expressive Arts	Computing
Lesson 5 14:00-15:00	Technologies	PE/Sport	Creative/Expressive Arts	PSHE	PE/Sport

Remember Humanities can be any of Geography, History, RE.

Key Stage 3 Timetabling

Just to help...

Here's a blank version of that timetable.

You can adjust the start time of the first lesson, and the other times through the day to suit your household schedule or how your son/daughter works. Some children work much better with an earlier start, some actually work better if they get up a bit later (provided you make them wake up and get moving!)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lesson 1 09:00-10:00					
Lesson 2 10:00-11:00					
Break					
Lesson 3 11:20-12:20					
Lunch					
Lesson 4 13:00-14:00					
Lesson 5 14:00-15:00					

Key Stage 3 Timetabling

Later Lunch

... and here's an option with a later lunch break

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurrsday	Friday
Lesson 1 09:00-10:00					
Lesson 2 10:00-11:00					
Break					
Lesson 3 11:20-12:20					
Lesson 4 12:20-13:20					
Lunch					
Lesson 5 14:00-15:00					