



HOMEWORK POLICY



Primary
Cycle



1. Purpose and principles of homework

The aim of homework is to connect the learning process between school and home.

These objectives can be achieved in different ways:

- Preparation for learning in class
- revision
- Practice and/or consolidation of learning done in class
- Extending and applying what has been learnt in new contexts.

Homework is not an extension of the school day; it must add value to the work done in class.

2. The form of homework

Homework can take many different forms. It must take account of the children's abilities and their rate of learning.

Teachers are responsible for determining which forms of homework are appropriate for their pupils, based on the following principles:

- Homework should be appropriate, meaningful, proportionate and achievable.
- Pupils should understand the purpose and requirements of homework in the different curriculum areas. This should be communicated and discussed with them at the beginning of each school year and term. Students should also understand the purpose and requirements of homework as it is assigned to them; this will increase motivation students to complete an assignment to the best of their ability.

Homework can give students the opportunity to select, integrate and apply knowledge and skills acquired in one area of the curriculum to another area of the curriculum.

- Homework must be adapted where necessary/differentiated according to pupils' abilities, interests and needs of the pupils.
- The time taken to complete homework should be reasonable, taking into account the age range of the students particular learning needs and the nature of the task.
- Homework can be both short and long term.
- Homework should be transparent and communicated at regular times and through established channels. The use of Teams or other ICT tools can be helpful.
- Pupils who have been absent should consider whether or not they need to make up an assignment and what would be an appropriate timescale for handing it in.
- When assigning homework, teachers should remain mindful of the welfare of pupils.
- Teachers should communicate with each other and cooperate.

- Where written homework is assigned, a good balance should be struck between the requirements that may be set in a number of subjects. Completing a range can help students to develop independence, preparing them for their future studies.
- Homework should not be the norm during holidays.

3. Homework by level

P1/2

The only homework that should be given on a regular daily basis to children in Years 1 and 2 is 10 to 15 minutes of reading practice or other topics with a parent. This does not mean, however, that other small amounts of homework cannot be given (+/- 10 min per day).

P3

As Year 3 is a transition between the lower and upper classes of primary school, children can be expected to do simple reference work, as well as starting to work on their multiplication tables (20 minutes per day). Regular reading practice (10-15min per day) should be continued.

P4/P5

Years 4 and 5 are a progressive preparation for secondary school and therefore homework should become more regular and academic. Unfinished work can be completed, spelling prepared, tables learnt, reference work, handwork, reading... Homework should be limited to 30 minutes, regardless of how quickly the child works (this does not include 15-20 minutes of daily reading).

Homework should not be seen as a formal assessment, as the child may have been helped by his or her parents and the educational support available in one family may be different from that in another. Nevertheless, homework should always be checked and corrected in class.

Students who do not fully complete all assignments at school (because they are disruptive or refuse to work) may be asked to complete these tasks at home. As such, this work is not to be understood as traditional homework but is in addition to normal homework. However, teachers will inform parents.

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