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1. Why give homework

To reinforce what the child learns during the day

To provide a link between teacher and parent

To develop a child's concentration skills and develop a work ethic

To further develop independent work habits

Homework is meant to be achievable by a child i.e. it provides an opportunity to practise work already done.

It is normally prepared by the teacher, however in senior classes, some homework is designed to challenge children's ability and provide opportunities for creativity.

2. What is expected?

Children are expected to do their homework to the best of their ability – no more no less.

3. How often is homework given?

Homework is given on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but not on Fridays.

There are two exceptions:

If homework has been neglected during the week

In Senior Classes some work may not be finished during the week and may need to be finished at weekends

Sometimes, at the discretion of the teacher or principal, children are given “homework off” as a treat or as an acknowledgement of a special occasion. Homework may be given if a child has not completed homework properly, i.e. has not made a good effort or has presented untidy work

4. What is the content of homework?

Ideally homework will contain a balance between reading tasks, learning tasks and written tasks.

This balance is not always possible and can vary considerably from day to day. However, it should be noted that homework time devoted to reading and learning is as important as written work.

Homework will regularly contain reading, spellings, tables, written work, pieces to be memorised, drawing/colouring, collecting information/items and finishing work stated in class. Homework can also include some tasks involving research for projects using I.T.

Children often feel that reading and memorisation work is not real homework. Parents can play an important role in listening to reading and items to be learned ensuring this work is done well.

5. How much homework?

The following are guidelines for time spent at homework. Different children will complete the same homework in different lengths of time. Time spent will vary from day to day and also from the beginning to the end of the school year. It is important to remember that it is the quality and not the quantity of homework that matters.

The following are general guidelines only.

Jun. & Sen. Infants: 15-20 minutes (after introductory period)

Rang 1 & 11 30-35 minutes

Rang 111 & 1V 40-45 minutes

Rang V 45-60 minutes

Rang V1 1 hour

If the children cannot finish the homework within time it may be advisable to inform the teacher.

6. Standard of Work

Children are expected to do their best at all times. A high standard of neatness and penmanship is expected.

Children are expected to answer questions fully and pay attention to punctuation etc.

7. Incomplete Homework

If for any reason the child does not do homework or their homework is missing, a note of explanation is expected from the parent(s)/guardian. This can be done via Aladdin or through a note in the Homework diary. If the child is for any reason missing their homework on a given day or has partially completed their work and there is no note of explanation then the child is expected to complete the homework during the day at school or that evening at home.

8. Role of Parents/Guardians

- Set suitable times for homework.
- Turn off T.V.
- Make sure the child has the proper physical conditions for doing homework – a quiet time, clear table, helpful books such as a dictionary.
- Observe the work.
- Check over completed work.
- Prompt and guide if help is necessary.
- If you have given a reasonable amount of help and your child still cannot complete the task, you can help best by writing a note telling of the child's difficulty.
- Informal reading is an intrinsic and valuable part of homework. It is an enjoyable exercise between parent and child.
- Encourage and give credit for effort.
- If their child is attending Afterschool club then the parents are asked to check their child's homework as the Afterschool staff do not have overall responsibility for homework

9. Role of Teachers

Ideally teachers will check homework on a regular basis. Some items of homework and indeed classwork may be checked by children themselves with teacher guidance. This can form part of the learning process for the children. Every effort will be made to set homework appropriate to the child's ability.

10. Success Criteria

The success criteria of this policy will be determined by feedback from parents, pupils and teachers. This will be sought at Parent/Teacher meetings during the first term. In general where pupils are handing in satisfactory exercises and assignments, reading and memorising activities are well practiced, this will be interpreted as reflecting positively on this policy. Similarly where the results of the regular class assignments are satisfactory this will also reflect positively on this policy.

11. Roles and Responsibilities

The class teacher assigns homework, taking into consideration the recommended time allocation for homework and monitors it on a regular basis. The pupils (1st-6th) are responsible for writing homework in their homework journal and taking home all the necessary books, copies and equipment necessary to complete the homework. Parents are responsible for providing a suitable place, free of distractions, for their child to do their homework. They are also responsible for monitoring the homework process at home and ensuring that all homework is complete to the best of the child's ability. Parents are responsible for communicating when difficulties arise.

The Principal is responsible for the implementation of this policy and for its review.

Review and Monitoring

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the Board of Management on an annual basis or when the need arises.

Policy adopted by the BOM on 21/9/23

Signed John Dillon (Chairperson)