Homework Policy

Rationale

Homework benefits students by complementing classroom learning, fostering good study habits and providing an opportunity for students to be responsible for their own learning.

Aims

- Help reinforce the knowledge and skills experienced in class lessons.
- Build confidence and feel good about individual, group and class efforts.
- Give students the opportunity to share achievements with their family.
- Assist students to form study habits and skills in a supportive environment.
- Keep parents informed of what is being taught at school.

Note: Homework should not be the cause of tension and disruption in a family.

Implementation

- The school’s homework policy will be made available to parents at the commencement of each school year and expectations will be outlined at the parent information evening.
- All students will be allocated homework diaries except for Years K-2.
- Teachers will provide students with homework tasks that reinforce knowledge and skills already taught, modelled and experienced in the classroom.
- Homework should include a variety of tasks that cover various KLAs throughout the term:
  - Each week, homework must include the following KLAs:
    - English (home reading, spelling strategies, comprehension, proofreading, book response, etc).
    - Maths (counting strategies, times tables, writing problems and activities involving other strands as studied in class that week).
  - Homework may also include at least one of the following each week:
Homework Policy

- Religion (writing prayer, learning a prayer, choosing a prayer on a particular theme to share with the class, etc).
- HSIE and Science and Technology related tasks.

- Homework should be appropriate to each child’s skill level and age.
- Generally, homework is set in a contract form with tasks that need to be completed between Monday and Thursday each week.
- Homework tasks should be interesting, challenging and where appropriate, open-ended.
- Homework should be able to be completed with minimal assistance from parents.
- All homework activities must be marked and dated with a positive and/or constructive comment made by the teacher and returned to the student. Any incomplete homework should be brought to the teachers’ attention.
- Projects and design and make tasks are not to be set for homework as they should be part of the KLA tasks and therefore completed in class time.
- Incomplete class work may form part of homework after discussion with parents. Frequent incomplete class work should be brought to parents’ attention.
- Preparation for oral presentations can be included as homework tasks and these may directly relate to KLA topics, talking/listening games and/or a text type focus.
- When students take leave during the term, teachers are not expected to set homework for more than 2 weeks. Students are encouraged to read books and keep a journal during this time.

The following is a guide of the time allocations to be considered when setting homework for the grade. Reading preparation for oral presentations is to be included and considered in this time. Try to vary Key Learning Areas (KLAs) covered throughout the term.

Homework will mainly consist of:

- A maths activity.
- Spelling words and activities.
- Simple extension tasks of another KLA associated with classroom activities.
- Gathering of additional information or materials.
Homework Policy

**Homework Guidelines per Grade**

The following are homework guidelines for English schooling (not including Arabic homework).

**Kindergarten**

- 10-15 mins Home readers (Teacher guided – reading log)
- Possible sight words games
- Maths activities

**Year 1**

- Possible sight work and spelling skills activities.
- Maths activities.

**Year 2**

- 20-25 mins (10 mins reading and 10-15 minutes activities).
- Home readers (Teacher guided, reading log, book review).
- Spelling words and spelling skills activities.
- Maths activities.
- Varied activities on tasks across KLAs that are a revision of concepts already covered in class.

**Year 3 & 4**

- 25-30 mins (15 mins and approx 15 minutes activities).
- Home reading.
- Spelling words and spelling skills activities.
- Maths activities (such as timetables).
- Varied activities on tasks across KLAs that are a revision of concepts already covered in class.

**Year 5 & 6**
Homework Policy

30-35 mins (15 mins and approx 15-20 minutes activities).
- Home reading.
- Spelling words and spelling skills activities.
- Maths activities (such as mentals and timetables).
- Varied activities on tasks across KLAs that are a revision of concepts already covered in class (such as religion).

Taking into account individual differences, teachers should set and demand a high standard of homework. Classroom teachers should communicate with Arabic staff, to ensure that children are not overloaded. Homework should be avoided on weekends, term breaks and end of year vacation periods. Instead staff may use the option of regular reading and reading logs during term breaks.