

# Homework Policy

**Aim of the Policy** - This policy aims to provide guidelines about the reasons for Homework and the different types of tasks that can be given.

## Definition of Homework

"Teacher-assigned and teacher-monitored work that students are asked to do outside of the classroom context, related to and supportive of the learning that takes place in school. Homework can be of various formats including play." (National Homework Policy, 2018)

## Aims of Homework Tasks

- For students to reinforce what has been learnt at school;
- For students to be responsible of their own work;
- To provide opportunities for teachers (at school), parents/guardians (at home) and children to work together fostering an effective partnership between home and school;
- Homework to be in line with the National Homework Policy;
- To provide modified homework according to the needs of the learners.

## Types of Homework

### Kindergarten

No formal homework to be given to students. Parents are encouraged to practise numbers and language concepts through everyday experiences.

### Early Years and Primary Years

It may consist of:

- Writing tasks;
- Studying and practising for mastering;

- Reading tasks;
- Speaking tasks;
- Independent research tasks (such as finding pictures, information, or creating projects/posters, Show and Tell);

**Homework Assignments that increase the Effectiveness and Quality of Homework include:**

- work that is directly related to what has already been explained/practiced in class;
- work that gives students the opportunity to practice what they have already learnt in class and understand more deeply the content or practice procedures they have been introduced to in class;
- work that gives students the opportunity to apply what they have already learnt in class;
- work that offers students the opportunity to further explore their interests in relation to what has already been taught in class;
- work that encourages students to be creative and take risks or to freely explore a topic.

**Homework Duration**

**Kindergarten:** No homework; focus on parental involvement through reading, play and cultural activities.

**Years 1-2:** Homework should focus on interactive activities through daily reading, speaking, writing and numerical activities. Homework should not exceed 20 minutes per day.

**Years 3-6:** Gradually introduce independent homework increasing duration which should not exceed 30 minutes per day (maximum 45 minutes per day in year 6).

Once weekly, on Wednesdays, there's no written homework, focusing on reading, speaking or research tasks per teacher's discretion. An exception for year 1 in Term 1 only due to the introduction of Maltese alphabet.

### **Abiding by these Rules**

When a student does not hand in the Homework without a valid reason, s/he will be given a verbal warning and homework is expected the following day.

If it is repeated, another verbal warning is given and the Homework is done during break.

If it is repeated again in a short period of time, homework will be done **during break** and the parents are notified.

### **Sick Students**

**Year 1-2:** When students are sick or justified absent, including abroad for a long period of time, work can be given on their return, to be done gradually.

**Year 3-6:** When students are sick or justified absent including abroad for a long period of time, homework will be shared on MS Teams/Facebook. It won't be corrected, but parents should review it with their children. Teachers will re-explain concepts if needed.